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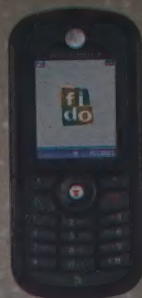
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Maria Bernadette Marcos
Water Safety Laboratory
Technologist, EPCOR

How long have you been a water safety technologist?
I studied as a summer student in 1999 and 2000. When I graduated in 2001, I called and said 'Hi, I want a job', they said 'Come on in.'

What specifically is it that you do?
I run quality assurance on water. We perform over a hundred tests on the water to ensure that over a million people in 50+ communities are safe. These tests are done for multiple communities in Alberta and British Columbia.

What do you do if a test fails?
We resample it right away to confirm the test. If it passes the second time we test it again just to make sure. So if something fails, we test it three times just to make sure. It's very rare that there are any negative results, normally everything passes.

What are some of the things you test for here?
In Edmonton, generally the microbiology, whether there is E. coli or total coliforms. We also test to make sure the chlorine (and other chemicals) parameters are correct.

Are you in school now?
I'm working on a Master of Science with the environmental Engineering Department, being funded by Epcor. This is a thesis based program, but I'm working on the classroom portion right now.

Is this always what you wanted to do?
Like many people, I wanted to work in the medical field, but that didn't pan out, probably for the better.

What's your favourite part of your work?
Definitely the people I work with. There are approximately 25 of us in our department and there are lots of laughs and they are all very friendly.

What don't you like about your work?
Not enough vacation. We have a rotation so that somebody will come in during the weekends to test all the parameters of the water.

JEFFREY GREENIAUS

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magazine

Issue # 678 November 23-29, 2006

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JEFFREY GREENBAUM

SATURDAY, NOV 18 Laura Lee Scheck and EJ Desroches test out the "Regular Love Swing" at the Taboo: Naughty But Nice Sex Show at Northlands Agricom this weekend.

PREPARE FOR LAUNCH

HAD TO PASS THIS ON: CALIFORNIA ANTI-WAR ACTIVISTS Donna Sheehan, 76, and Paul Refell, 55, want as many people as possible across the globe to bring themselves (or a loved one) to simultaneous orgasm on Dec. 22, while focusing on world peace.

"The dream is to have everyone in the world [take part]," Refell says. "And if that means laying down your gun for a few minutes, then hey, all the better."

Refell believes that war is an outgrowth of male penis envy, a case of "my missile is bigger than your missile."

Okay, it sounds like something concocted by a couple of inland-out California hippies (because it is) but you know, it can't hurt. If you'd care to check out the "Countdown to Synchronized Global Orgasm" yourself, head to www.globalorgasm.org

CAFFE LATTE SHORTAGE = NATIONAL TRAGEDY

NOT THAT WE NEED TO BE REMINDED OF HOW BADLY CANADA is failing its Aboriginal peoples, but last week was chock full of newsworthy ironies illustrating just that.

Last week's conference on Aboriginal Treaty Rights on the agenda reserve was a washout, with only one country (Canada, at least) sending delegates.

While the feds were paying lip service to the issue (we say since Canada was one of only two countries to oppose the international agreement on Aboriginal Treaty Rights ear-

lier this year), a little boy was mauled to death on Thursday by a pack of starving dogs on the North Tallcree Reserve in Northern Alberta.

And while well-heeled Vancouver yuppies were being denied their morning lattes due to a boil water advisory, making front page news across the country (*Coffee culture grinds to a halt as shaps adjust*, *Globe & Mail*, Nov 17), almost 100 native reserves in Canada were also on boil water advisories, simply as a matter of course. (The Kwicksutaiuk reserve in British Columbia has had a boil-water advisory in effect for the past nine years.) Kind of makes a caffeine shortage seem a little trifling, no?

HEY MAN, WHERE'D THE BOOM GO?

ACCORDING TO POLLING FIRM ENVIRONICS, ABOUT HALF OF Canadians think they would slip into poverty if they missed even one or two paycheques.

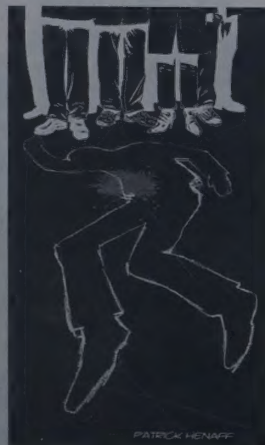
True, the young 'uns amongst us are increasingly saddled with huge student debts, and too many of us live permanently mired in credit card debt (you don't need a Playstation 3), but c'mon! Unemployment has been low for years and the country is awash in money like never before. Meaning people are working but not feeling secure.

So if the average Canadian really is as close to poverty as all that, can we really say, with confidence, that we're experiencing a healthy economy?

LOOSE LIPS SAVE LIVES

MANY PEOPLE WITNESSED THE STABBING OF DYLAN COLE McGillis on Whyte Avenue last Sunday, but few have come forward, according to police.

Now, with the EPS' rep on Whyte Avenue, it's not hard to guess why residents aren't buddy-buddy with police, but that doesn't mean citizens can abdicate their own roles as keepers of the peace. For the most part, our neighbours can be left to their own devices (by the way, a freaky-looking lawn gnome is not cause for citizen intervention). But take the time to have a chat with the cops, before someone else ends up with a knife in the gut.



PATRICK HENAFF

THEY MAY... SAY NO HITTING, AND THEN NO TOUCHING AT ALL. WHERE WILL IT END?"

- San Jose Sharks right winger Scott Parker, on the waning degree of physical contact between NHL players.

Disappearing nature

Rapid development endangers parkland

CANOEING DOWN THE NORTH Saskatchewan River, surrounded by trees and animal life, Edmonton's grey buildings, sprawling residential suburbs and abandoned patches of empty space seem a universe away. The contrast is even more striking when viewed from the High Level Bridge—a profusion of organic life against the rigid concrete of towers and roads.

The river valley has been a point of pride among many residents ever since Fredrick Todd recommended its preservation in 1907. It's widely considered North America's longest stretch of urban parkland.

But lands that sit above the river valley and connected ravines have not enjoyed such iconic status, nor are they as protected.

With only nine per cent of the city still undeveloped and the current pace of building near break-neck speeds, the city doesn't have time to dilly-dally, says Grant Pearsell, Edmonton's natural areas coordinator. As the Edmonton area population grows, developing a sound plan

for Edmonton's natural areas has become much more important.

"We really have to get a handle on dealing with this. If we had more time, we'd have the luxury of planning it out, but now with the pace of development, we need a clear idea of what people want," he says. "Once a natural area is gone, it's gone forever. You can make the wrong choice in land use. You could zone residential but in the future zone commercial. But once the natural areas are gone, you don't get a chance to fix that."

LINKING NATURAL AREAS

Pearsell says careful planning in linking existing natural areas can provide the river valley concept throughout the entire city. Not just for people, these corridors would provide ecological stability, he says. The river valley's continuous natural area provides paths for large and small animals to move through the city. For example, if there's a fire in one area deer can escape further down the valley.

"Just as we have roads, railroads, pipelines and the all human infrastructure connected, we need connections for wildlife," he says.

This is standard ecological thinking, says Patsy Cottenill, a member of the Edmonton Nature Club. But while she welcomes the preservation of more natural areas and the corridor concept, she doubts that the city will follow through with it in a way that will ensure ecological functions instead of merely showpiece green spaces.

Human trails, possibly lit, could greatly discourage animals moving through the area, she says. "Are these corridors going to be wide enough and suitable for small and even larger animals?" she asks. Even walking a dog can disturb small rodents, she points out. The city must also ensure there are large shrubs and trees for birds to fly over the paths. She also wants more research into the performance of other corridor projects in other cities.

Natural areas not considered valley or ravine lands, referred to as

tablelands or flatlands, are diminishing at a much faster rate, says Pearsell. While Edmonton has lost only 0.1 per cent of the river valley lands since 1993, 12 per cent of the tablelands are now developed. Developers must petition city hall before developing valley or ravine lands. No such automatic protection exists for the tablelands.

Cottenill cites lack of information as another reason for the loss in natural tablelands. "We get all this other stuff though the city, but there's never anything on natural areas and the public simply doesn't know," she says. Because the public doesn't have natural areas on their radar, the city doesn't consider it a major issue, which means there's no budget for publicity, resulting in a "vicious cycle," she says.

Moreover, much of the public thinks the natural areas they see on maps are protected, but many are privately owned, she adds.

MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES

Certainly, privately owned natural areas present many difficulties, says Pearsell. The city could declare these areas parks, but that draws money away from other needs like soccer fields and schools. The city does have a yearly \$1.25 million dollar fund for acquiring natural lands, but that doesn't go very far in Edmonton's current boom.

Budget excuses don't impress Cottenill. "I really think that we've somehow got to counter that notion that everything is so expensive. When you look at the huge amounts

of money coming into Alberta and the amount of money that any project costs, why should they penny pinch on natural areas?" She believes that the city should look beyond current budget concerns and concentrate on the benefits that the investment will offer to future generations.

With that goal in mind, The Edmonton Community Foundation and the Urban Development Institute, along with the city and other partners, are working on creating a land trust. The trust would both raise funds for purchasing lands and receive private donations of land.

HAVE YOUR SAY

While Cottenill still thinks the best plan is too little too late and doubts the consultations will genuinely consider public suggestions, she does urge public participation. Head count makes a difference, she says. "If you're going to go to the politicians and ask for money, it's good if you can demonstrate public support."

Pearsell insists he's looking for other ideas and opinions at the public consultations. He needs a clear mandate from residents on land priorities and management in order to go forward, he says.

"It's a short process, but it's quite urgent that we do this. If we take our time, more development will happen. As it is, our plan couldn't realistically be ready until the fall of next year. That's a long time in our economy."

Details on the public consultations are available at www.edmonton.ca

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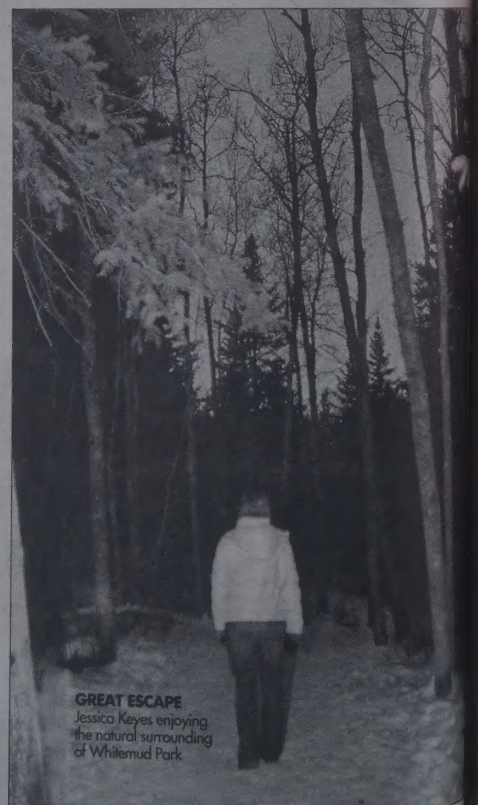
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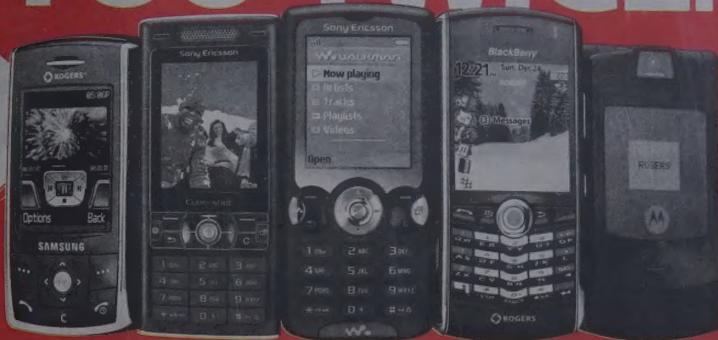


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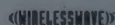
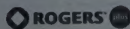
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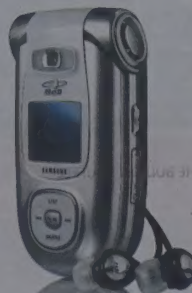


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NIGHT TRAIN
ETC's new head honcho says it's a promising expanded service

Transportation chief comes west

Will fresh eyes mean fresh ideas?

EASTERN CANADIANS JUST DON'T GET Edmonton, says Richard Ducharme, the city's new general manager of transportation. He headed west in October after leaving his position as chief general manager of the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC). Colleagues and friends chided him for moving to Edmonton, the middle of nowhere with nothing but malls and snow hats.

Anyone who thinks that way, he says, has obviously never been to Edmonton. Misconceptions and unsubstantiated common-knowledge irk the 58-year-old in his life and work. He likes to think of himself as a direct, no-nonsense kind of guy, the opposite of the paper-pushing civil servant stereotype.

His TTC exit was dramatic and very public. He cited "political interference" from Toronto councillor

and TTC chair Howard Moscoe during a wildcat strike. He was also outspoken during his time as TTC top dog. He specifically disliked the purchase of Bombardier trains that was completed by Toronto city council without seeking bids from other companies.

THE BUDGET SHUFFLE

As he enters his first budget process here in Edmonton, his attitude seems much the same. He insisted on a new bus garage, which, with an \$85 million dollar price tag, still got committee approval. But defending spending choices is old hat for Ducharme.

"Each year the budget only accommodates about 50 per cent of our needs, but that's so typical. Every year we're going to try to keep the province and the federal government at the table, like every

city in Canada. The budget will always be the biggest challenge." While expansion is definitely on his agenda, maintenance is paramount. New roads, buses, or trains can't interfere with that, he says.

He's already gained a reputation for being frank with councillors and city staff, says Edmonton general manager Al Maurer.

"In time they may worry about that and think he's too frank with them, but on the other hand I think they appreciate that style at this time," he says.

TOUGH ROW TO HOE

For his part, Ducharme admits he's still on a learning curve with politicians. So far, he's found Edmonton's smaller council more manageable than the Jerry Springer-style shouting-match that typifies Toronto city council.

Eric Baumgartner, the transportation critic for the Sierra Club's prairie chapter, hopes Ducharme will live up to his reputation and shake things up. "We need some fresh ideas. We can't continue on this road," he says, citing infrequent public transit service, increasing costs and urban sprawl.

"The transportation system in general sets the stage for the rest of the city to be built. So, we've got to look at systems that don't increase urban sprawl and make the city a viable place to live, especially downtown," he says.

Ducharme says he welcomes criticism as a vital part of improvement. Regularly taking ETS as well as his car helps him pinpoint trouble spots. "There's nothing better than being caught in the same traffic issues on either mode and feel what the customer is feeling," he says. He rode

the subway daily while in Toronto and says the first-hand experience gave him ammunition for changing departmental thinking. And for all his respect for staff, he says he won't accept trite answers like "But Rick that's how we've always done it," he says.

Increasing bus frequency and creating more direct transit routes while remaining within budget are other hurdles, Baumgartner says. He also calls for more public forums on transportation in the city, saying the city's top-down approach doesn't encourage broad thinking. For example, he contends the transportation department presents choices such as bus versus LRT rather than looking at alternatives like car-pool lanes. Or, in co-operation with other departments, increasing the cost of parking downtown or changing zoning to encourage smart growth.

THE TORONTO CONNECTION

Ducharme's Toronto experience prepared him for these challenges. Maurer says, but experience was also a curse for concern. "We had

Ducharme think of himself as being fish in a little pond." As the chief general manager of the TTC, Ducharme oversaw a system that carries 1.5 million people each day, a far cry from auto-dependent Edmonton, which only moves 120,000 people.

"You look at a person of that caliber and what he has managed in the past, and one of my questions was 'Can you work for me?'," asks Maurer. "Or do you want to be the boss?" So far, he says, no problems have arisen.

Ducharme down plays the difference in size between Toronto and Edmonton. He cites the advice of police chief Mike Boyd, also a Toronto export and his good friend, for at least part of his reason for moving. And certainly the job wasn't his only consideration. He's jazzed about skiing with his wife this winter and taking part in Edmonton's many festivals. For him, the move to Edmonton was equally about career opportunity and lifestyle. "It's not the pavement and concrete that run a city, it's all the other positive things, the social life balanced with your work life," he says.

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A WII BIT HAPPY
Get it, suckas

Wii are family

Columnist enters fourth dimension

"VIDEO GAMES AT A PARTY?" THE unwelcome guest sneered, looking down through chunky, candy-coloured glasses.

But she was the first of many, that and subsequent nights, to utterly coo—loudly—at this splendid evolution of game consoles. Suddenly, the motions of food-providers in the living room made even less sense to the cat. Crowded den became whip-armed bowling alley, golf course, monster truck playground, tennis court, and the latest rethink of Zelda's Hyrule. As engaging and interactive as charades, Golden Tee, and speed-fuelled sex rolled up in one. A door has just opened into the future and we're turbo-boosting through it with a hot pink dune buggy.

of the VR links. All of them ready to mingle in online party rooms and peer-to-peer ballparks.

But what good is it all? Well, that's just the kind of thing people say before they first get laid. Or in this case, get their hands on the Mark 1, motion-sensitive remote and start hacking away at pumpkin-faced orcs with a workout that leaves your arms aching. Oh, and a little less cynicism about actually using the safety wrist strap. Already on Flickr are the shattered plasma screens of children in so much shit they may as well go live in a whale somewhere.

Because even though a flick of the wrist does the job for most required stabs, whacks and spin-outs, a larger swoop with physical, real-world energy offers sublime control and mental satisfaction. It's anthropologically fascinating.

The more you throw your heart, body and brain into it, the further your imagination draws you in. Yes, I'm talking to you, fat kids. This is the front line argument you should use on your parents—the boxing game alone should get you in killing shape.

But hopefully not so aggressive that you need to go butcher someone on Whyte. Hey, changing topics, can we seriously get some independent CCTV surveillance—just on the Ave? I've slowly come around on this one. When I was in England, bridge-exploding vandals as well as overaggressive cops were being torn apart thanks to video capture. While the danger of misuse is steep—notice I said "independent CCTVs," meaning constantly accessible to police watchdog groups—I believe in their power of, say, murder deterrence. Knowing they're being taped could also simmer down the minority slice of hockey- and police-uniformed fuckheads whose clashes and abuse came to unfairly sharpen the wider definition of Edmonton as a snail-tongued retard zoo.

Soapbox done. Back to Nintendo. Go buy one. I mean, once the sex simulators kick in on this thing, it's over for the human race. Don't you want to be part of that? Don't you want to run down the street yelling (try this out loud) "People, gather round! I got a Wii!"

HIDDEN NINJA

FISH GRINKOWSKY

And so it was the Wii-storm came to my home and filled it with life and childish laughter—a reborn feeling of family. Plus plenty a spaz-spilled wine.

Wii's dual, Glossettes-box remote control vs. thumb-stick maraca is a thing of applied genius. It's as fascinating and important a tech-step as the introduction of the mouse, the Internet, downloadable music, and wireless friend collection.

But, not accidentally, the new Nintendo incorporates all these seminal inventions, with an able photo and video editing suite to boot. And in an age of endless self-obsession and promotion, nothing erupts cackles like designing your own Mi—point-by-point, D.I.Y. personal avatar that in my case, sadly, allows no amount of hair between "lots" and "Jean-Luc Picard." Welp, bald again.

Ignoring the machine's suggestion to take a break (seriously), it wasn't long before a mean squad of us started assembly-lining a crack whose love doll, the spider-faced freak, that turbaned devil named Yomomma and, of course, my greatest creation, the flesh-coloured Imperial Stormtrooper, unchallenged master

RANT ACID

SHOPPING CART STUPIDITY

Seriously people, am I the even remotely aware of my physical presence in the grocery store? I stopped to look at produce, or to what kind of meat you want, for God, push your cart to the side aisle so the rest of us don't have to make that decision. Are you attracted by that shiny apple or pretty age that you've had to abandon your wander, transfixed, toward whatever foodstuffs has caught your eye? Get your head out of your ass.

Tired of moving your damn cart out of my way

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I DON'T THINK HE'S BEING IRONIC AT ALL!

DODSON RESPONDED TO THE SETBACK WITH MORE FAILED ATTEMPTS, ACCENTED BY SOME INCREASINGLY UNFORTUNATE FASHION CHOICES.

LOOK AT THE HORROR DOEUVRES! TABLE—CHEESEBALLS! THAT'S THE KIND OF THING YOU GUYS LIKE, RIGHT?

Larry Dodson
His Actual Wedding Album

OKAY, SO IT'S LIKE SOCIETY HAS SUBVERTED MY OWN BIOLOGY... HEY! ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING?!

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JASPER PLACE HOTEL 15326 Stony Plain Rd., 480-5444 — Open Stage hosted by Bruce Fox, 7 pm
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — Open Stage w/ Willie James & Crowded, 3 pm, 6 pm
NIKOI DIAMONDS 6130 Gateway Blvd., 439-8006 — Open Jam w/ Mike
O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB 10616-82 Ave., 414-6766 — Open Stage hosted by Joe Bird, 9 pm
WUNDERBAR 1020-101 St., 436-2286 — Open stage country jamboos w/ Rob Jarvis

MONDAY

KINGSWAY LEGION 10425 Kingsway — 7 pm Capital City Jammers
UB'S PUB 23 Akens Dr., St. Albert, 460-9100 — Mon Open Stage w/ H's house band
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 Ave. — 7 pm, Acoustic instrumental old time fiddle jam hosted by the Wild Rose Old Time Fiddlers' Society. Info: Wally @ 474-5270
ROULETTE'S CAFE 10068-108 St. — 7 pm
SIDETRACK CAFE 10333-112 St. 421-1326 — Every Mon 8:30 pm, featuring Bob Spencer, NC
THE DRUID SOUND 2940 Calgary Trail, 465-6800 — Open Stage w/ Chris Wynters 9 pm

TUESDAY

BUND PIG PUB St. Albert, 418-6332 — Evening jam w/ Annmar
LEGENDS PUB 6104-172 St., 481-2786 — Open jam night
SECOND CLUB Churchill Square — 7:30 pm hosted by Ron Taylor
THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave., 454-9928 — Chris Wynters hosts open stage at 9 pm
YARDWOOD 10200-86 Ave., 432-0428 — Jam sessions 9 pm

WEDNESDAY

ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL 7704-104 St., 432-4611 — Open mtn 8 pm, hosted by Duff
BUDS LOUNGE Grandin Plaza St. Albert, 458-3826 — Acoustic jam 8 pm
CAFE BRITT 120 McLeod Ave., Spruce Grove — Every Wed, 7-9 pm Hosted by Eric Miller
FIDDLER'S ROOST 4906-99 St., 8 pm, Little Flower Open Stage w/ Brian Gregg, 92 cover, doors 7:30 open, www.littleflower.ca or 429-3624
PLEASANTVIEW HALL 10860-57 Ave. — Bluesgrass jam session 7:30 pm hosted by the Northern Bluesgrass Circle Music Society. Info: 434-5997
ROSSDALE COMMUNITY HALL 10135-96 Ave. — Little Flower open stage 8-11 pm, hosted by Brian Gregg. Info: 429-3624 or www.littleflower.ca
ROYAL CANADIAN BRANCH 10220-156 St. — Open stage jam, 9 pm w/ The Dino Donnelly Trio
THE LOCKER ROOM 10209-100 Ave. — Open Stage for comedians & musicians
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 10200 McKinney Ave., St. Albert, 458-0860 — Jam session 9 pm, hosted by Danny Floyd

KARAOKE

ALBERT'S 9308-34 Ave., 7 pm, Prosound Productions
B-STREET BAR 11818-111 Ave., 414-0545 — Wed, Sun w/ Brad Scott
BILLY BOB'S LOUNGE Continental Inn, 14625 Stony Pl. Rd., 484-7751 — Thu-Sat, Karaoke w/ Ed & Tara
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BLUE QUILL 326 Saddleback Rd., 434-3124 — Fri-Sat
BO DIDDY'S PUB & GRILL 4274-137 Ave., 478-1918 or 377-0219 — Thu w/ Mr. Entertainment
CHOCOLATE'S PUB & GRILL 10200-100 Ave., St. Millwoods Centre — Thu, 9:30 pm w/ Mr.

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BUD'S LOUNGE Londonderry 64 St. & 137 Ave. — Fri, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
CASSELLWOOD PUB 14620-50 St., 473-1010 — Wed, 9:30 pm — 1:30 am
CASTLEDOWN PUB 16753-100 St. — Tue, 9 pm — 1 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment
CHATEAU ON THE HILL Beaumont — Fri, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
CHICAGO JOE'S 9604-111 Ave. 479-4040 — Fri w/ Spoonz n' Toonz
CHIMNEY'S 8318-144 Ave. 478-1770 — Thu & Fri, 9 pm w/ Wally Kenny
CHRISTOPHER'S PARTY PUB 37 Millbourne Rd. — Tue, 9 pm, w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions
CLAREVIEW PUB 104, 550 Clareview Rd., 414-1111 — Thu, 9 pm — 2 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
CLIFF COUNTRY 9710-102 St., 424-1614 — Fri & Sat, 10 pm — 2 am
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CROWD & ANCHOR 1272-113 St. — Thu, 9 pm w/ Shaun Donalson
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DOYLE'S PUB 2619-151 Ave., 473-1961 — Fri & Sat, 9:30 pm
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H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE 10044-82 Ave. 413-5794 — Tue, Thu & Sat, 10:11-2324 — Fri, 8 pm — 12 am, w/ DeB Thelin - Hot Karaoke Prods
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HOLIDAY INN 4520-76 Ave. — Thu, 8:30 pm w/ Prosound Productions
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INGEWOOD PUB 12402-118 Ave., 451-1390 — Thu-Sat, 9:30 pm — 2 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
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MAZADAR 10725-104 Ave. — Fri, 5 pm w/ Chris Info 429-4946
METRO BILLIARDS 10250-106 St., 990-0704 — Tue 10 pm — 2 am w/ Lounge Lizard
MICHAEL'S 11730 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 — Mon, w/ Mr. Entertainment
MILTON'S CAFE & BAR 10235-124 Ave., 451-8188 — Fri, Sat, Starts at 11 pm
MOJO'S Fort Sask, Best Western Hotel 10115-88 Ave. Fri, 9:30 pm w/ Sonia/Prosound Productions
MONA LISA 9606-1180 Ave., 477-7752 — Every Wed, 9 pm — 1 am, hosted by Cathy, Sat w/ Jason
MUGGENT'S PUB 6655-178 St. — Wed & Sat
NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 — Thu, 9 pm, w/ Devon Lane & Brittany
NIKOI DIAMONDS 6130 Gateway Blvd. — Mon, 9 pm — 1 am w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment
O'CONNOR'S IRISH PUB 9013-88 Ave., 469-8165 — Thu, 9 pm — 1 am
ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 — Mon, 9:30 pm, Drink the hot Dry Karaoke w/ Scott Parsons & Mr. Entertainment
ORLANDO'S 12168-21 St., 457-1195 — Every Wed, Thu, & Sun, 9:30 pm — 2 am
ORLANDO'S 11150-127 St., 451-7799 — Tue & Wed, 9 pm — 1:30 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
ORLANDO'S 6104-104 St. — Mon 9 pm — 1 am, w/ Off-Key Entertainment
OVERLAND LOUNGE 12940 St. Albert Tr. — Fri 9 pm — 1 am, Sat 9:30 pm — 1 am w/ Off-Key
PARKLAND PUB 3035222 Red 272, Service Grove 960-6871 — Every Sat, 9 pm — 1 am, starting Sep 17, Karaoke contest, 1st prize \$600
PEPPERS 230 Westmount Centre, 113 Ave. & 135 St., 451-8022 — Thu, 9:30 pm — 1:30 am w/ Gord from Stone Rock Entertainment
PLAYBACK PUB 574 Heritage Rd. 475-2309 — Thu 9 pm hosted by Callie, cash prizes
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Prize: A double guest pass to see *Manufactured Landscapes* at the Gamemau Theatre.
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Prize: A double guest pass to see *Babel, Half Nelson, or Fast Food Nation* at the Princess Theatre.
Skill testing question: What film did Kevin Smith mention as one of the best he'd seen in the last decade, in a guest appearance on *Ebert & Roper*?

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SMITHY'S Northgate Mall, South side entrance — Sat, 9 pm — 11:30 pm
SMITHY'S WESTMOUNT Great Rd. & 111 Ave. — Thu, 9:30 pm — 1 am
SMOK'N JOES ROADHOUSE 615 Heritage Rd., 476-6122 — Wed w/ Rockin' Kani
SPICES RESTAURANT & LOUNGE 99 St. & 32 Ave., 430-3663 — Fri & Sat w/ TJC Entertainment
SPORTSMANS LOUNGE 145 8107-50 St. — Thu, 9 pm — 1 am w/ Mr. Entertainment
SPORTSWOMEN INLINE & ROLLER SKATING DISCO 13710-104 St., 472-6356 — Tue, Fri & Sat 7 pm — 12 am Sat 9 pm — 1 am
STRATHMORE PUB 9514-87 St., 465-5478 — Wed & Fri
THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave. — Wed, 9:30 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
THE DRUID SOUND 2945 Calgary Trail South — Wed, 9 pm w/ Mr. Entertainment
THE FRAT 10320-102 Ave. 428-3733 — Every Tue, 9 pm w/ Peter from Mr. Entertainment
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ALPACA KNIT SWEATER SALE & OPEN HOUSE — Dec 9, 10 am — 4 pm. Windsor Park Community Hall, 11840-87 Ave. Presented by the Maple Women's Knitting Cooperative of Bolivar. All proceeds returned directly to the talented Bolivian artisans who create this variety of Alpaca wool items. Info: www.minknitters.com or 436-5732

CUPID.COM SPEED-DATING EVENT — Nov 28 7 pm. Cail's Irish Pub, 10338-109 St. All single ages 32-44. Pre-register at www.cupid.com/predating

EDMONTON POTTER'S GUILD SHOW & SALE — Nov 23, 10 am — 3 pm. Bowley, Milner Library, Churchill Square. Browse through a selection of pottery created by city area potters, demonstrations, and do some holiday shopping. Free, donations to the Food Bank are gratefully accepted.

FILL-A-BUS CHRISTMAS HAMPER CAMPAIGN — Dec 9, 9 am — 5 pm. Transit drivers will be various St. Albert locations collecting donations for the St. Albert Kniters' Christmas Hamper Campaign. Locations include the St. Albert Canadian Tire, Save on Foods stores, Sobies and Wal-Mart.

JINGLE ON — Nov 26, Downtown. 10 am Indoor Santa Claus Parade, starting in Commerce Place, through Mainville & into City Centre on the 2nd level parking, 12:30 pm. 5 pm Winter Carnival in Churchill Square, with free activities at the Art Gallery of Alberta. 5 pm Holiday LightUp in Churchill Square. Info: edmontononline.com or 424-0085

KING'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CHRISTMAS BAZAAR — Dec 2, 10 am — 3 pm. 9125-908 Ave. Over 60 vendors gather to display and sell original arts & crafts, giftware, baking, holiday cards & more. Admission \$1, free parking info: www.kingsu.ca or Clarice at 440-4661

LENDUM POTTERY GROUP CHRISTMAS SALE — Dec 9, 10 am — 2 pm. Lendrum Community League Building, 11335-57 Ave. Pottery for all occasions and celebrations.

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EVENTS

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For Natasha Bakht, modernity is all about diversity—of views, identities, practices, and practices. Bakht, who Dance Current Magazine (something of a bible in the Canadian dance world) recently called “a brilliant diamond,” has drawn on both her Indian and Canadian roots to pull together her newest offering, *Triptych and Other Dances*.

Triptych is uniquely structured: four contemporary solos choreographed by four different choreographers—one being Bakht herself—that leaps from one theme to another, from idea to another, and traverses the stage to a soundtrack of French baroque, electronica, and more.

Building on her extensive dance background in Northern Indian Classical dance form of Bharata Natyam, Bakht's eclecticism is not accidental.

“I think it's possible to say that each of the pieces is a portrait of the kind of person that I am,” says Bakht. “What I think is interesting about the evening is that each piece presents a slightly different portrait and emphasizes different aspects of the same person... I think it's also important to celebrate what is ordinary, and for me, what is ordinary is what, perhaps, is unusual for somebody else. I don't see myself as doing something particularly profound, I'm just going about my business, which happens to be dance and law.” (Bakht is also a Professor of Law at the University of Ottawa).

She laughs when asked if being a performer makes her a better lawyer.

She chose academia rather than the practice of law primarily because it gives her the flexibility, schedule-wise, to continue working as an independent dancer.

“I always say that dance and law are, to me, both public services. They're both about communication and about giving back to a community, and I try to emphasize in both my practice of dance and law all of those aspects.”

COSMOPOLITAN WOMAN

Bakht is a dancer under Dr. Menaka Thakkar of Toronto for over 20 years. Bakht was fortunate enough to be along for the ride when Thakkar's school grew into a professional company, touring primarily Bharata Natyam classical repertoire throughout North America, Europe and Asia. In 1992, when her teacher became interested in collaborating with other choreographers, not just from the Indian dance world, Bakht became part of those projects, working as a dancer with Canadian contemporary choreographers like Joan Phillips, Roger Samra, and Robert Desrosiers.

Bakht then went on to dance with the contemporary Shobana Jeyasingh Dance Company in London, England, for three seasons. It was in England that she was most exposed to experimental contemporary dance, studying for one year at the London Contemporary Dance School, taking technique classes in ballet, martial arts, and modern styles.

“I've come very interested in creating dance outside of the classical boundaries. What I found most interesting about it was the innovation it required in terms of the mind and the body, and that's the journey I've been on ever since,” she says. “For me, as an artist doing contemporary work, I am very interested in the abstract side of dance. I feel like I do tell stories in the performances that I give, but they're not necessarily narrative ones. There might be a theme, but I'm very interested in the idea of multiple meanings. I don't think I want to be the final authority on my work.”



THE

SPICE OF LIFE

story Salena Kitteringham
photos Cylla Von Tiedemann

Bakht says she doesn't like the use of the term “fusion” to describe the kind of dance she does. “It suggests a kind of mindless blending of ideas or cultures that don't necessarily work together—that is really not of interest to me. She's grateful to be working with choreographers Shobana Jeyasingh, Roger Sinha, and Yvonne Coult, people she's worked with before and known for a very long time—artists she admires and who want to create innovative dance without consciously trying to blend the Indian dance elements with the Western dance elements.”

We figure our histories will naturally be exposed through our bodies and in the movement,” says Bakht. “I think it's hard enough to make good dance that we don't really need to concern ourselves with a conscious blending of styles. The reality of the situation is that I live in Canada and when I learn Indian classical dance, if I'm being taught a story about going to the river and having to fill a pot of water, my teacher would have to explain to me what it was like having never been to the river myself to fill a pot of water. My very good friend in Delhi has also never been to a river and filled a pot, she just goes to her bathroom and opens a tap, so her teacher would also have to explain what it's like.”

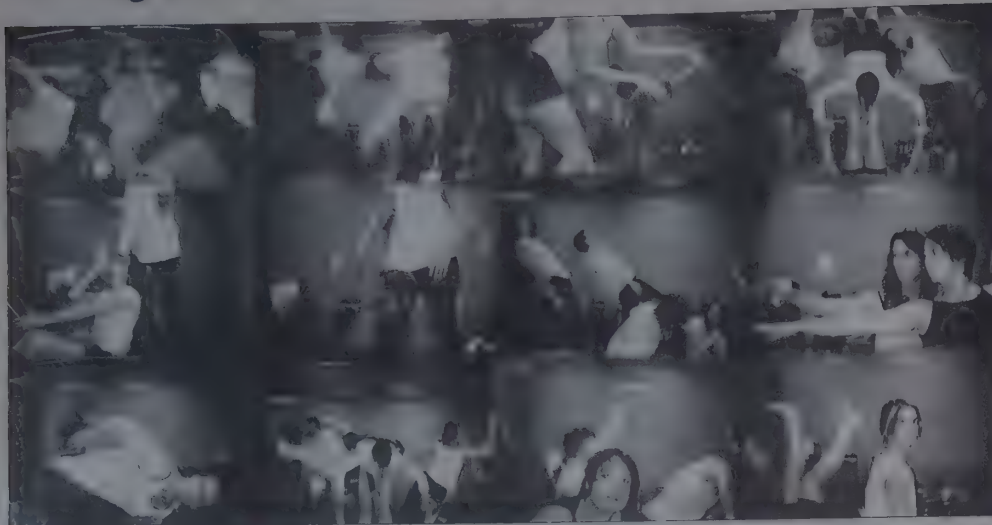
“I have to acknowledge the urbanization in the work that I do and in the people that I work with. That reality of living in urban places is something I have encountered with dancers from all over the world. It's not to say that's the only reality, but it is mine. And so I might as well be true to it.”

“I certainly do not claim to represent all aspects of what it means to be an Indian dancer,” she continues, “or an Indian dancer working in Canada, but I think I represent a small part of it, and I'm happy with that.”

Natasha
Bakht's
innovative
dance
blends
music,
cultures,
and styles—
but don't
call it fusion

Triptych Self and Other Dances
BY NATASHA BAKHT

Dec 1–2, 8 pm, John L. Hoar Theatre (MacEwan
Centre for the Arts, 10045-156 St.) Tickets \$25, \$15
students/seniors, www.ticketsthesquare.ca or 420-1757



Thinking outside the box

Mile Zero Dance explores the imperfection of perfection

THE CUBE

Choreographed by and starring Gerry Morita, Kathy Ochoa, Colin Atkins and Theresa Dextrase. Presented by Mile Zero Dance, Nov 24 - 25, 8 pm, Freemason's Hall (10318 - 100 Ave.) Tickets: \$12 members/\$15 non-members, available at the door

IT'S NO COINCIDENCE THAT MILE ZERO Dance company was so determined to perform their first mainstage show of the 2006-2007 season in downtown Edmonton's Masonic Temple (also known as the Freemason's Hall)

Of course, before we go all Da Vinci Code and start jumping to conclusions involving Freemason secret treasures, shakily lit subterranean meeting rooms, and hidden power lines carving out occult symbols across the city core, be aware that the dance company's agenda for hosting their unique show at the Temple this Friday and Saturday has nothing to do with cult-ish craziness. It's purely thematic.

The reason MZD wants to perform a brand-new contemporary dance performance called *The Cube*

in the popular Scottish Rite Masonic Temple is that the building itself is a giant cube.

"It's Edmonton's perfectly square building and the company really wants to take advantage of that," says Ted Kerr, MZD Board Member.

According to Kerr, the interdisciplinary piece was inspired by MKD Artistic Director Gerry Morita's meditation on issues of voyeurism, greed, lust and compassion, inspired by the constrained lot of the average corporate worker drone as embodied by the figure of the Japanese

"salary man."

Hence, the titular cube embodied by the perfectly square Temple stands in for the cubical farms of modern office life, and the "box" corporate types are supposed to think out of.

"The piece is going to be exploring the voyeurism built into the life of a salary man and the reality that business people have to put on a performance and do things because other people expect them to," Kerr says.

Further underlining that point, the piece incorporates numerous TV screens into its design, some showing pre-taped footage, others boasting a live performance feed, all adding to the central theme of surveillance and voyeurism, the observ-

er and the observed.

"There's another sub-theme, predator and prey running alongside the idea of watcher and watched in the work," he says.

"Part of the work was inspired by animal welfare expert Temple Grandin and her concept of 'mild mannered' animals in Translation," says Kerr, of the American scientist's process of humane animal slaughter.

Grandin's idea was that animals being sent to slaughter are not allowed to see much around them, focusing only on the cow in front of them as they go through a highly controlled system that's designed to keep them calm on the surface to mask its intense killing efficiency.

This postmodern abattoir makes for more calm animals who aren't overly spooked by the killing taking place around them, but can also stand in for a equally efficient and ruthless corporate system that makes its workers to narrow their gaze to ignore everything but the bottom line, all the better to participate in an inherently power-imbalanced process.

"This piece is more serious in tone than other MZD pieces and is looking at those issues of success and failure of success," Kerr says. "With other MZD pieces where very emotional in their gestures and how they engaged the audience, this one is more internal and strives to draw the audience in."

The Cube features Morita as well as MZD Artist in Residence Kathy Ochoa, well-known Ukrainian dancer Colin Atkins, and Theresa Dextrase.

Another ground-breaking aspect of this MZD show is the fact it's being danced to techno beats created by Don Ross, an accomplished classical player and an avid electronic music composer, who will be performing live at every show.

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Christmas in the old country

The Citadel puts an old-world spin on a classic tale

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN GNOMES

OF CHRISTMAS

By Viktor Lytvynov. Starring The Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and The Kyiv Ballet, Nov 28 - Dec 18, 7:30 pm, 2 pm matinees Sat, Sun, Shodor Stage, Citadel Theatre (9828-101A Ave.) Tickets: \$65-\$75, available at www.citadeltheatre.com or 425-1820

IT'S LAST MEETS WEST AT THE CITADEL this week, as Edmonton's internationally-acclaimed Ukrainian Shumka Dancers team up with Ukraine's world-touring Kyiv Ballet.

Following up on the success of 2004's presentation of a novel *Nutcracker* ballet, the two companies are coming together to present *Snow White and the Seven Gnomes of Christmas*.

"Shumka has been working with the Kyiv since 1997 in a variety of shows," says Dave Ganert, the Associate Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer for the Shumka Dancers. "This year we're able to present a North American premiere of a great family-friendly piece."

A Shumka performer as well as an administrator, Ganert is dancing the role of Doc in the old school story ballet, created under the direction of the Kyiv's Viktor Lytvynov and based on an original score by Bronyslav Pavlovsky.

The Kyiv, alongside the Kirov and

the Bolshoi, is considered one of the top Eastern European ballet companies, making Shumka's participation all the more exciting.

"This collaboration has even more Shumka participation (than *Nutcracker*) with 20 of our dancers playing the gnomes and the entourage of the wicked queen alongside 12 Kyiv dancers," says Ganert.

Following relatively closely to the seminal Grimm Brothers' spin of the tale, the warm, pastoral ballet features the titular Snow White fleeing her lush palace to the safety of the magical forest after being threatened by the Wicked Queen.

But in the woods, instead of encountering seven dwarves, she stumbles upon seven toy-making gnomes who take a shine to Ms White, and promptly give her refuge and then protect her slumbering self in her surreal glass coffin after she slips into a magical coma after eating the poisoned apple.

"The great thing about character ballets based on these classic stories is that you can add and change features as you see fit," Ganert says. "In our version of Cinderella, for example, we changed the Fairy Godmother for a Gypsy Queen."

"This show is such a great fit because both of our companies are known for our strong story and

character dances."

As for the professional gap between the Kyiv's classical mandate and Shumka's more world dance repertoire, Ganert says the artistic divide isn't as massive as you'd guess.

"Dance in general is a complicated form. A lot of movements in Shumka's Ukrainian dance have a ballet influence and the core techniques we all use are universal. We incorporate ballet training in our own training process as well as modern dance moves."

So it wasn't so much an artistic gulf as it was the physical gap

between the two companies, divided as they are by an ocean and a good chunk of two continents, that proved most troublesome.

According to Ganert, a bilingual rehearsal process was needed to make the piece in shape.

"Viktor (Lytvynov) came out in October and worked with us for a week to teach us our part in the material, and since then I've been repeating the company," he says. "Now (in the week leading up to preview shows) both companies are in Edmonton putting the show together and rehearsing altogether," he says.

"But, that's how dancers are used to working. Most times we do more than one show at a time, and we're used to showing up and doing our thing quickly."

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LE VOYAGE IRONIQUE

THERE'S SOMETHING IRONIC ABOUT A francophone play set on a boat going to England for the monarch's coronation. That's part of the appeal in Michel Marc Bouchard's *Le Voyage du Couronnement* (The Coronation Voyage) says director Josée Thibault. "Michel Marc Bouchard's writing is so compact and layered. The play is set after the Second World War, which Quebec didn't want to be involved in anyway, and the tragedy of Dieppe where so many Canadians were lost."

Set on paper, the plot has great potential for humour as a Montreal crime lord sets out for England with his sons in search of his new life. "He's denounced his enemies, and

is now under the protection of the police. He'll get a new life and passport in London. He's already sacrificed one son in his denunciation, but will have to sacrifice his younger son as well to get the passport." It's a dark premise, she says, and the element of sacrifice is one that is immediately relevant to Canadians. "As world citizens, there is a duty to sacrifice our children for peace."

With its dark themes and trapped individuals, Thibault likens some aspects of *Santre's No Exit*. "It is very dark but entertaining. There's a mix of social classes especially with three girls named Elizabeth who have won a contest to go to the coronation and are bumped up to First Class."

Le Voyage du Couronnement runs at La Cité Francophone Nov 23 - 25 and again Nov 30 - Dec 3. Tickets are available at Tix on the Square, L'Unité and La Librairie Le Carrefour, or at the door.

PLAY BALL

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR MICHAEL CLARK WANTS you. And your ideas. The new leader of the acclaimed Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre has cooked up an event which will determine which playwrights and plays will be part of the theatre's 2007 Playwrights'

Unit. It's called Pitch to Play.

"This is the beginning of our play development cycle. It's a public competition. We're going about the selection process much the same way orchestras audition new players - behind a screen." Emerging and established writers are invited to send the synopsis or pitch to www@theplaywrights.ca by midnight Nov 24. They will be given a week to prepare for the audition. On Nov 26 at La Cité Francophone, nine chosen by the panel will pitch to the audience, will be selected to advance to phase two of Pitch to Play. The winners will have a week to write a scene to be presented on Dec 4, where five will be chosen as one of them an audience pick.

Tickets are Pay What You Can, available at the door. The event begins at 7pm.

BALANCING ACTS

THIS WEEKEND, BALANCING ACTS COMES to Edmonton. Now in its sixth year, the disability arts festival, the longest running of its kind, runs concurrently in both Edmonton and Calgary. The Edmonton events will take place at the Family Centre in the ACT Recreation Centre in Rundle Park.

The festival is produced by Stage Left Productions' artistic associate Nicole Gaudet.

Duncan says that Alberta is the only contributing province to the burgeoning disability arts movement in Canada. "While active disability arts movement has existed in Calgary for the past ten years, Edmonton work has escaped the attention it deserves," she says. "As a result, Stage Left has been able to bring Balancing Acts to Edmonton for the first time!" More information about the festival including schedule is available at www.stage-left.org/BAL. Tickets for Balancing Acts are available by calling 1-877-242-3108 or e-mail balancingacts@stage-left.org and some hotels are available at the door.

RODEO ROUND-UP

IT'S A POST-RODEO ROUND-UP at Varscona Theatre this week as Euro Country Susanna Patchouli hogties a passion for tainment for her adoring fans. She carries that pop rock heart throbs the Canadian and singer-songwriters Howard Finkes Christian Hanson will provide some musical thrills, while local native trio Asan will serenade you with their gorgeous harmonies.

All that plus the Compagnie Des Mantes and of course, booze, at 11 pm at the Varscona Theatre this Saturday. Tickets are available at the Varscona Box Office 10:30 am.

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One Bernard, two Bernard, three

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A NUMBER
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"HE IS A SHOCK. EVEN A TWIN
k. But a number?"
That halting exclamation is the
crux of Caryl Churchill's
tightly compact one act play *A
Bernard* (Patrick Howarth)
his father, Salter (James
with the knowledge that
cloned at an early age, and
are any number of exact repli-
running around. Salter is right-
indignant at first, advocating
action to the tune of "a million
dollars per copy at least", but as
Churchill's fractured and halting
unfolds, and the clones show
it becomes clear that the reality is
more sinister than a mad scientist
rip-off.
In fact, while Churchill calls into
question the ethics of genetic engi-
neering and cloning, she also expos-
es the crawling resentments and
complexities most families would
rather keep hidden. Can a parent,
having completely botched the job of
raising a child, simply start over on a
blank slate? What defines the indi-
vidual? The myriad genetic traits
passed on in the DNA, or environ-
ment and personal experience? Cer-

tainly Salter's three sons, the con-
fused Bernard, the threatening
Bernard II and the insouciant
Michael couldn't be more different
in temperament.

In Amy de Felice's stripped down,
clinically precise production, the
hour simply races by, as the actors,

looking exactly the same but with
eerie differences in their eyes—the set
of their lips and movement. Michael
is the most startling, almost empty
by contrast, affected and dispassion-
ate. James de Felice's journey is less
different, as he must interact with
the three clones. He depicts a man of

**James DeFelice and Patrick Howarth
turn in some wonderfully precise and
layered performances, textbook
examples of flawless technique.**

reflected by floor to ceiling mirrors,
circle and spar their way through
five scenes. DeFelice has opted for
an extremely contained emotional
atmosphere that weighs heavily in
the PCL space. Minimal props and
harsh lighting focus all attention on
the lab specimens, (er, actors).

Which is a brilliant choice,
because once the opening night
nerves wore off, James DeFelice and
Patrick Howarth turned in some
wonderfully precise and layered
performances that were textbook
examples of flawless technique a-
nimated by deep emotion.

Howarth plays the three sons not
by virtuosic flourishes of character,
but with subtle shifts of energy and
voice. Hence his regular guy
Bernard morphs into Bernard II each

waffling charm, but as the edges of
the veil are lifted, there is a horrify-
ing coldness revealed and a warring
compassion.

The play and performers make for



HEY HEY! The gang's all here

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with the actors and Genome Alberta

afterwards. The combination is as
illuminating as it is entertaining.
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on screen

MANUFACTURED #11

Photographer Edward Burtynsky the subject of TIFF award winner



Photos of the future

Documentary loses subject, catches glimpse of China

MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES

Directed by Jennifer Baichwal. Featuring Edward Burtynsky. Opens Fri. Nov. 24. Carleton Place, ****☆.

MANUFACTURED LANDSCAPES is a lovely piece of work that opens with a languid dolly shot, rivaling Russell Metty's crane shot from *Touch of Evil*, through a factory in contemporary China. Cinematographer Peter Mettler sets the tone for this film as his camera slowing tracks across row upon row of long aisles littered with boxes, and workers dressed neatly in canary yellow shirts. As the camera pans along each long row, workers periodically glance at the lens revealing the slightest fraction of humanity

Director Jennifer Baichwal punctuates this disparate environment with nothing more than the sound of groaning machines and the odd buzzer.

The anticipation provoked by this opening sequence is heightened by the voice of photographer Edward Burtynsky, who suggests that it is his personal philosophy to capture the essence of landscapes in modern society. These landscapes fuse the pastoral with elements of our disposable culture.

After the expectation set up by the opening shot, *Manufactured Landscapes*, which won Best Canadian Feature this year at the Toronto International Film Festival, is a satisfying repast, albeit not absolutely

fulfilling. This may have something to do with the subject himself. Burtynsky is a renowned Canadian photographer whose work quite consciously backs away from capturing people in their natural environment. As Burtynsky himself admits, "I do not consider myself a portrait photographer."

His work has a very calculated look. His landscapes are mostly captured through wide angles and the people that dot them appear almost inconsequential. In the spirit of the painter Caspar David Friedrich, this technique can work very well in punctuating the isolated environment in which Burtynsky's subjects live, and indeed his photographs are ironically very beautiful.

As for the film, Baichwal seems to feel a little trapped by her subject. It's as if at times she is not sure whether she wants to dissect contemporary society in China—as she follows Burtynsky around while he shoots the disheveled geography of Shanghai—or whether she is interested in the man himself.

It's telling that one of the more engaging moments involves Baichwal taking the camera into the home of an old woman who has refused to leave her apartment as it is rapidly being engulfed by skyscrapers in downtown Shanghai. The shred of what it is to be human is evoked by this elder as the camera pushes in on her weathered hands while she sews beads onto a piece of cloth.

Though Baichwal's film doesn't serve as a Toastmasters "get to know ya" moment for Edward Burtynsky, she is to be applauded for getting this fascinating photographer's work out to us.

Burtynsky's shots are at once apocryphal and spellbinding in their beauty. In keeping with his philosophy of not attempting to make overt social-political statement, Burtynsky paints pictures that are the antithesis of the prescriptive sentimentality we are used to seeing. It is not to suggest that his landscapes are hard to look at; whether he is taking a shot of compressed beach caps shipped over from North America for their reusable properties, or the skeletal remains of a tanker, Burtynsky's work is delicious in its irony.

At the heart of the film lies the reality that China is a nation rapidly becoming an urban society. The words of the handful of subjects who are interviewed suggest this change is replete with a treasure trove of conflicting emotions. Some are thrilled to witness the country entering the modern age. Baichwal talks to a real estate agent from Shanghai for example who is elated to wait around her lovely estate garden talking about how China has entered the 21st Century with a vengeance.

In fact, most of the subjects interviewed seem to suggest that progress in China is a good thing; their optimism runs contrary to the ongoing environmental catastrophes in that country. Burtynsky has instincts in capturing the iron sludge slowly being scraped from the bottom of an old oil tanker by 10-year-old workers, families excavating the rubble that was their own neighborhood as they evacuate to make way for the path of a new dam. Gorges Dam, or the image of an old woman eking out a living peeling usable metal from dilapidated computer parts.

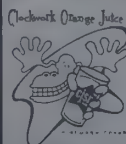
Though the two subjects of her film rarely meet on meaningful ground, Jennifer Baichwal's *Manufactured Landscapes* is certainly worth seeing just to catch a glimpse of the likely heir to the American Empire.

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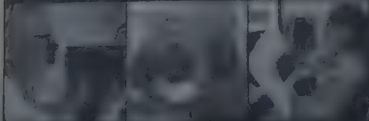
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Neither Best nor Mighty

Guest film feels uncomfortably familiar

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

Directed by Christopher Guest, Starring Christopher Guest, Eugene Levy, Catherine O'Hara. Now playing. ★★☆☆☆

THE LATEST FROM THE FOLKS responsible for *Waiting for Guffman*, *Beethoven* and *A Mighty Wind* returns the mockumentary form, but not the tried and true formula of satirizing a particular microcosm of society with plenty of rapid and snappy people in an attempt to make us laugh.

Your Consideration locates its

oblivious dramatis personae on the set of an earnest-but-awful play-to-film adaptation called *Home for Purim*. Aging actress Marilyn Hack (Catherine O'Hara), who plays the dying matriarch of a southern Jewish family in WWII, gets wind of an Internet rumour that her performance might earn her an Oscar nod. Then washed-up hotdog shill/dinner theatre fixture Vincent Miller (Harry Shearer), who plays her husband, prompts similar buzz, as does Parker Posey's ditzzy supporting actress. Pretty soon the improved

prospects that an Academy Award nomination represents for their careers has them all entranced, as it does their agents, publicists and various hangers-on, even as the film is completely bowdlerized by the studio.

The whole gang is here—Guest as the artistically challenged director, John Michael Higgins as a publicist who lost touch with the tools of the trade in the '70s, Jane Lynch and Fred Willard as the vacuous, rather mean hosts of an entertainment news show, Jennifer Coolidge as the

apparently retarded producer, Eugene Levy as Miller's tactless agent who dines out every chance he gets at the craft services table, Michael McKean and Bob Balaban as the playwrights whose work is trampled in its translation to film, Ed Begley Jr. as a gossiping hairdresser, and probably some other people I've forgotten. Ricky Gervais throws in his two bits as the not-entirely-unDavid-Brentish studio head.

The gags fly fast and furious, the bulk of them pretty obvious riffs on Hollywood culture, but right from

The gags fly fast and furious, the bulk of them pretty obvious riffs on Hollywood culture, but the territory feels very familiar.

the get-go the territory feels very familiar, most noticeably in Coolidge and Willard's characters, which are mere variants on the characters they played in *Best in Show*. And just as the veneer of realism is stripped away, so too goes the sense of empathy for the characters. This is a vain untalented, self-centred bunch and though their public humiliation at the hands of movie moguls and media might be a comment on the rapid turnover of celebrities in the glitter factory, it also seems to be the point of the movie.

Certainly I'm grateful to Guest and his ensemble for the laughs they've given me in the past, and I was quite happy to see O'Hara and Shearer in leading roles, but the whole movie feels so slight—as though it were devised completely by Levy and Guest in an after-noon—that stalling in it doesn't seem like the prime opportunity it should be.

On the other hand, the industry audience I watched it with at the Toronto Film Fest roared with delight at the skewering of the pretentious philistines who run Hollywood. But then again, they laughed heartily when each principal character appeared in his or her respective silly wig. I wondered if they weren't laughing at the movie they expected to see. The problem for me was that I felt pretty sure I'd already seen it, and it was much better last time.

And even better the time before that. SCOTT LINGLEY

Repression and restlessness

Hungarian teens twixed under Soviet thumb

TIME STANDS STILL

Directed by Peter Lothar, Starring Istvan Zolnai, Henrik Pauw, Nov 24, 7 pm and Nov 27, 9:15 pm, Metro Cinema, Zeidler Hall, Central Theatre, metrocinema.org. ★★☆☆☆

Fifty years ago this month, Soviet tanks rolled into the capital of Hungary, Budapest, and crushed a popular revolt that saw the country attempting to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact and implement democratic reforms.

Although the consequences were horrific for revolutionaries and citizens alike—thousands killed in street fighting, dissident leaders rounded up and executed, and scores of refugees fleeing to the West—unlike in other countries behind the Iron Curtain (Romania and East Germany most readily come to mind), the Communist fist didn't entirely level freedom of expression.

Time Stands Still, a Hungarian-made film that begins with the events of 1956 and examines the

aftermath into the early '60s, attests to that both by the story it tells, and the ability of the filmmakers to be able to share it. Made in 1982, it's a remarkably frank and critical look at the post-revolutionary period.

While Hungarians had it "better" than some of their brethren in the Bloc, their oppression, as reflected in *Time Stands Still*, was real.

What we see here isn't so much the threat of gulags and secret police atrocities but rather an air of national depression where those who stayed and survived try to make do in a country rife with a low-key paranoia (while people aren't secreted away for not towing the party line, they are ousted from their jobs) and a veil of defeatism blankets the country like a funerary shroud.

The story concerns itself with a boy, Dini Kovcs, whose mother kept him and brother behind with her as their father fled to Austria in the wake of the uprising's collapse. When the film picks up the story in 1963, he's become a lot like certain

high school kids everywhere in every age: something of a rebel without a cause (in his case, though, the cause was completely and irrevocably lost before he entered puberty).

He smokes and drinks, parties to Elvis records with his friends, discovers girls, peddles black-market porn to his classmates (what—didn't everyone do that?), and flirts with the idea of fleeing to the West.

In other words, it's a slice-of-life, coming-of-age drama, albeit one set in a kind of expressionist purgatory where the wounds of the past and uncertainty of the future render the present a murky void—hence where *Time Stands Still*.

For the most part, the film succeeds as an exercise in atmosphere, the neglected interiors of a once-beautiful Budapest house as torn and frayed as its inhabitants. We don't expect much good to come to Dini, nor anything truly terrible—if you can call existence without opportunity something other than



BUT WE RAN *Time Stands Still* is one of four films at the Metro marking the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian uprising

terrible.

On the surface that doesn't set Dini apart from adolescents from anywhere else really. At the same time, his world is like nowhere else—a no man's land in the first stages of evolution into parts unknown.

That the film makes us want to

spend some time there with him and even smile at some of his youthful misadventures yields not only a glimpse at a largely ignored slice of history but a sad little truth as well: everything might not turn out all right, but in the end we'll figure out ways to keep going.

ZOLTAN VARADI

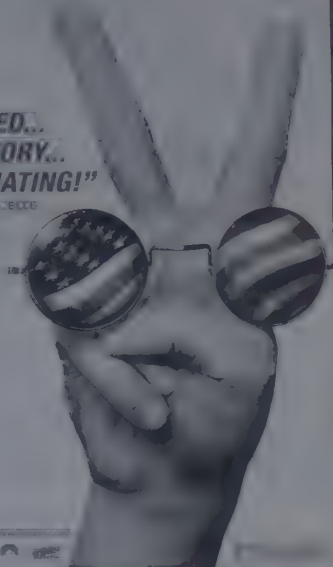
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Christian, unsettled

Slater waxes philosophical about *Bobby*

BY JEFF

Directed by Emilio Estevez, Starring Anthony Hopkins, William H. Macy, Christian Slater, Opens Fri, Nov 24

I'VE MET LOTS OF QUASI-FAMOUS people and interviewed plenty of actors, but none of them in the same name-brand league as Christian Slater, one of dozens of co-stars in *Bobby*, the writing-directing debut of Emilio Estevez.

The film, set in and around L.A.'s Ambassador Hotel on the day in 1968 that Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated there, features an impressive ensemble cast including such household words as Sir Anthony Hopkins, William H. Macy, Harry Belafonte, Sharon Stone, Demi Moore, Ashton Kutcher, Martin Sheen, Laurence Fishburne, Elijah Wood and Estevez himself, in a requiem for the progressive principles Kennedy was thought to embody, not least in his opposition to the Vietnam War and his association with the Civil Rights movement.

After a long wait in the Intercontinental Hotel's sweltering hallway in the midst of this year's Toronto International Film Festival, I'm conveyed into the *Bobby* interview suite. Across the room I spot William H. Macy and feel a pang of jealousy for his handsome hand-dog gaze. Joshua Jackson welcomes another entertainment hack to my left before I'm led

to my audience with Mr. Slater. Emilio, I'm told, is right in the next room.

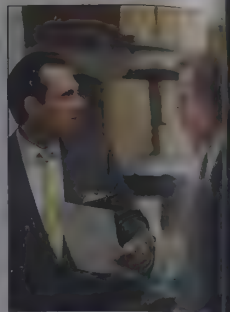
Slater looks rested as he rises to greet me. After seeing his face a dozen feet high in movies like *Interview with a Vampire* and *Broken Arrow* (admittedly the last film with Christian Slater I remember seeing), it's a little disorienting to see him in his actual dimensions. From the doorway, the publicist says, "You've got ten minutes."

Mr. Slater managed to say quite a few words in ten minutes, but space doesn't permit reproducing them in their entirety. But here are a few of his insights into the America that died with Robert Kennedy, his inspirational legacy and what makes him relevant 40 years later. To maximize your enjoyment, do your best Christian Slater impression as you read it aloud to your friends and family.

When you read the script, did you feel any resonance in any of the characters with your own political views?

I think, since Bill Clinton left office, I haven't been very politically interested or active, and the whole counting of the chads and things like that, I lost interest and felt threatened and afraid of politics altogether.

It's a hard subject to completely avoid, unless you move to some remote place in Africa and live in a village where there's no TV or anything of that stuff, it's hard not have



Slater briefs William H. Macy

it permeate into your life. I did go to Africa this summer with my son and went to a small little village and saw the people there and checked out the local customs and ate some of the food and, you know, they didn't have any magazines, they didn't have electricity, but everybody's smiling, everybody's having a good time, there wasn't all this political nonsense, they weren't really informed about what was going on outside the world, but my son and I had to get back on a plane and leave there and land back in London and, you know, back in what we call civilization, and landing in a second alert was phenomenal, there wasn't enough ground staff to disembark the plane because every available person is busy searching every passenger coming in and out of the airport.

So these are really scary times and a movie comes along that serves as a reminder that if we don't remember our past, we're doomed to repeat it over and over again.

There are a number of remarkable parallels between the era in which *Bobby* is set and the present, with America embroiled in an unpopular foreign war and conflicts with minority communities...

Yes, yes, yes. Now, it's incredible the poignancy of it is remarkable and the timing of it is wonderful.

I felt, after seeing the movie in Venice—God I felt passionate, I reignited in a way, and reminded that there was a point in American history when we were going in a particular direction and there was this kind of leadership available and somebody who had these kinds of beliefs and value systems and principles and integrity. Obviously that was cut short, but I still feel that it's all within us innately to move forward in a productive, more positive direction and, you know, it's just all about focus, what we're focused on.

What would you like audiences outside of the U.S. to take away from this film?

Outside of America? Well, I mean traveling around with the movie has been great—speaking to Europeans about the movie and listening to what they got, you know, it's like, "It's an America we remember and an America we miss," which was touching, you know. For me, I just felt proud, humbled to be a part of something of this, and ignited, you know, with maybe a newfound passion to find a leader like this, or to be a leader like this in whatever respect I can be, you know, this movie served as a reminder of things that are within me that I want to bring further out into my own life.

SCOTT LINDEN



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IN THEATRES DECEMBER 8TH

Spouting with style

The Fountain is overblown, and yet...

THE FOUNTAIN
Darren Aronofsky. Starring Hugh Jackman, Rachel Weisz. Opens Fri.

IF THE FIRST IMAGES WE SEE IN *The Fountain*, Darren Aronofsky's latest, are a bald being (Hugh Jackman) floating through space in a bubble which contains a large, dead tree. The analogy to the self is so tempting to resist: a sealed entity, curiously beautiful but strangely lifeless. But it's really strange is that I have a hard time bringing myself to dislike the movie.

It starts with Rachel Weisz in a series of stories spanning three centuries. In the present, he's a dedicated biological researcher, striving to create a cure for his beloved's deadly cancer. In the past, he is actually a novel the beautiful terminal patient is writing, he's a medieval and brave conquistador, dispatched from Spain to find the tree of life in South America and return with the gift of immortality to his beloved queen. In the future, he's the nameless bald astronaut, pulling the tree of life into a dying planet in an effort to rejuvenate its withered limbs.

With a story like that and a director with the promise that Aronofsky (*Pi*, *Requiem for a Dream*) has shown, you'd figure the film would be both emotionally charged and metaphysically compelling, expending as much creative energy on its spiritual ramifications as on its shiny-eyed romance. Sometimes, though, things don't work out that way.

That's not to say it doesn't look astonishing. For a movie spanning three disparate epochs, it has remarkable visual coherence, cast in tones of bronze and cupreous blue with a golden sheen like torchlight—every moment is otherworldly.

The players, too, are remarkable: Hugh Jackman all sinewy intensity; Rachel Weisz the most luminous cancer patient in medical history, and the gloriously maternal Ellen Burstyn, who projects more sternness and compassion with her eyelids than most actors could manage with their entire bodies.

One of the film's shortcomings, however, may be that it focuses so claustrophobically on the principle pair that it leaves the reality they live in only lightly shaded in. A little humour wouldn't hurt either.

In the end, *The Fountain* becomes so fixated on its grand themes that it fails to convince on a human scale. Good as they are, Jackman, Weisz

and the multimillion-dollar post-production shine-job are no more than vehicles for Aronofsky's bloated—yet not very rigorous—ruminations on the meaning of love and life in the face of death and an indifferent universe.

Then there's that ending, which suffers from the perennial difficulty of large-budget, mainstream films that grapple with spirituality and ontology—that is, it kind of feels like bullshit, the screenwriter's eleventh-hour attempt to provide a satisfying emotional and philosophical climax without coming off as dogmatic, which is about as interesting as it sounds.

As misguided as *The Fountain* seems, though, it's difficult to dismiss it entirely. Unlike the similarly ponderous, humourless and unsatisfying *Babel*, *The Fountain* at least seems to have its heart in the right place—it's a film made by a romantic, someone who wants to believe in the power of love to prevail, and Aronofsky's sincerity makes the tear-jerking story and circumscribed profundity more palatable than it might otherwise be.

That's not an endorsement so much as a wish that the filmmaker's talent finds a worthier vehicle next time out.

SCOTT LINGLEY

Black back in the red

Comedian tenaciously picks piss-poor projects

TENACIOUS D: THE PICK OF DESTINY
John Lynch. Starring Jack Black, Mike Gass, Ben Stiller, and Dave Grohl. Opens Fri. Nov. 24

IF YOU SAW *SCHOOL OF ROCK*, YOU'LL recall how Jack Black's never-has-been-metalhead character tries to teach a group of kids one of his ridiculous rock-opera-inspired verses, only to end up ditching the song in favour of his class's simpler compositions (and winning band wars as a result).

Jack Black needs to go back to class.

That's *The Pick of Destiny*, seems like just the kind of movie his character in that other, infinitely more entertaining film would have dreamed up: Black is JB and Kyle Gass (the hand mate in the real-life comedy-rock act Tenacious D) is KG (cheesy, no?).

In *Tenacious D* they play two bumpkin musicians who have become the world's greatest band.

Feigning photos of legends such as AC/DC's Angus Young, they insist that all their heroes shared a common denominator—each was photographed using the same mysterious guitar pick—yes, the titular Pick of Destiny.

And so the fun... is supposed to begin.

Despite turns by Ben Stiller, Tim Robbins, and Nirvana's Foo Fighters' Dave Grohl (as Satan—the pick is a piece of one of his teeth) and the dynamic duo themselves, the film's off-it, unfunny drag that assumes that the audience will find the pair endearing.

Note: paunchy, middle-aged men

plying sub-Cheech and Chong weed and dick jokes and who say "dude" and "rock" far too often than acceptable for... paunchy, middle-aged men... isn't funny—it's just kind of sad.

Not to sound ageist, but c'mon: lots of us over the age of, say, 17 still enjoy "getting the Led out" (to borrow a phrase from *School of Rock*—it's just so much more pleasant to think of that film than this one), but we've learned that there comes a time when you have to put the bong down. Well, at least when the cameras are rolling...

It's a shame, and one that lies squarely with Black and the studio execs who figured that every time



ROCK OFF ALREADY

The band takes its name from a phrase favoured by sportscaster Marv Albert

here several times—you know, the one with the charming script and the cute ensemble of kids.

In every other comedy that he's tried to carry—*Shallow Hal*, *Envy*, or this summer's *Nacho Libre*—the results have consistently sucked harder with every effort.

Now why you would take that prodigious lack of blockbuster muster and bank-roll a vanity project around it goes a long way to explaining the thinking behind every hunk of junk rolled out by the studios.

Time to put on some long pants everybody—arrested comedic development wore out its welcome long before Black's buds in *Old School* got the kegger going.

It's time to grow up already
ZOLTAN VARADI

There comes a time when you have to put the bong down.

he manically cocks his brow and belts out a Ronnie James Dio impersonation (that operatic elf makes a cameo here, by the way) that they've got comedy gold on their hands. (Kyle Gass gets a pass because "dude" is clearly just along for the ride on his more famous friend's coattails).

They overestimated his appeal. Black has charisma, if not primo acting chops, which has served him well in supporting roles from *High Fidelity* to *King Kong*, or in a tailor-made starring role such as the one in that other film already referred to



COZY Director Darren Aronofsky is married to Rachel Weisz, seen here with Hugh Jackman

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PLEASE SHUT UP
New Bond is apparently sick of martini offers, according to UK press

Connery? Who he?

Craig may be the best of the Bondage

CASINO ROYALE

Directed by Martin Campbell. Starring Daniel Craig, Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judy Dench. Now Playing. ****

EVER SINCE PIERCE BROSNAN WAS sent packing, 007 fans have been speculating about the appropriateness of his blonde-haired, blue-eyed replacement. When I first heard about Brosnan's dismissal, I too thought "How could they ditch the man who rejuvenated the franchise

back in 1995 with *Goldeneye*, and whose last Bond outing, *Die Another Day*, did boffo business at the box office?" I mean, I never really liked any of Brosnan's Bond films, but I still thought he was an excellent Bond.

Daniel Craig, a British actor best known for his performance in the low-budget gangster film *Layer Cake*, has a rugged and hard appearance that most fans immediately considered to be wrong for James Bond

The knee-jerk reaction: He has blonde hair for Christ's sake! How could he compete with Pierce Brosnan, who had brown hair just like Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, George Lazenby, and Sean Connery?

Well, I'm happy to report that with *Casino Royale*, blonde-haired Daniel Craig has proved all naysayers wrong.

Casino Royale is completely delivered. In fact, I may be, dare I say it, the best Bond ever! In the same kind of way that Christian Bale's Batman makes Michael Keaton's and especially Adam West's Batman look kind of silly, Daniel Craig's Bond pretty much mops the floor with all the Bonds that have come before him. Yes, even Sean Connery.

Casino Royale starts off with a clever retro-esque, black and white sequence, that shows the first two kills that elevate Bond to 007 status. From there we follow James to several exotic locations as he tracks down the main villain of the film, a banker to international terrorists, Le Chiffre (played with delicious menace by the excellent Danish actor Mads Mikkelsen).

Le Chiffre is a nice addition to the classic Bond villains. He's eccentric (his funky villain quirk is a tear duct that cries blood), but not larger than life. His motivation is one thing: money.

Eventually the two face off in Montenegro at The Casino Royale, in a thrilling high stakes game of Texas Hold 'Em.

Director Martin Campbell, who also helped rejuvenate the series with *Goldeneye*, has delivered a fantastic action film that relies more on suspense and intrigue than the over-the-top gadgetry of past Bond films. The action sequences are more realistic, involving hand-to-hand combat, gravity defying acrobatics, and fights with knives or guns, and they truly do leave you breathless.

Screenwriters Neal Purvis, Robert Wade, and Academy Award winner Paul Haggis (*Crash*) have put together a top-notch character-driven script with memorable dialogue and plenty of plot twists. They take full advantage of the beginning of Bond and provide the audience with several key insights into the man who eventually becomes the legend. It's so early on in his career that at one point a bartender asks him if he wants his martini shaken or stirred and Bond says, "Do I look like I give a damn?"

Of course a Bond film wouldn't be complete without beautiful Bond girls and *Casino Royale* presents us with a few. Main heroine Vesper Lynd (played by French actress Eva Green) is more than just Bond's love interest. She's cool, calculating, untrusting. Green and Craig have mucho chemistry and it's fun watching the sparks fly. There's also the lovely Judy Dench who returns as M. She seems rejuvenated with the new direction of the franchise and her few scenes with Craig sizzle as they jab at each other with witty subtextual banter.

Casino Royale reinvents Bond. He's more like creator Ian Fleming originally intended him to be: a lean, mean, cold-hearted, womanizing, professional killing machine.

Here we are presented with a real, complex, and brooding man, who doesn't always win.

This is a Bond that is rough around the edges and he's all the better for it.

NATHAN CUCKOW

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G-SPOT: SEASON ONE

Released on DVD Nov 28

BRIDGETTE BAKO WAS TIRED OF having other peoples' words shoved down her throat

As an actress in the stateside film industry, she really didn't have much choice in the words. That might have continued forever, if the pages of calendar didn't budge. No longer a 20-something, Bako was no longer sought out to play the ingénue, and the once plentiful film roles were becoming harder and harder to find.

Instead of packing it in and moving back up north to her home and native land of maple syrup and Mounties, Bako sat down and began to write.

What came out was *G-spot*, the

Sex in the City was the cool show was when Carrie couldn't get her diaphragm out and one of her friends had to go in there and was like "that is so real"

Can you give me an example of real-life experience you used in the show?

I did a pilot for Mel Gibson. I didn't get picked up. I played Mother and I had this crazy boy named Timmy. And I worked for 12 hours with this kid and they said "that's a wrap on Timmy." And they literally walked in a midjet and he in fact groped my boob.

So I write very autobiographical because I think the funniest things in life are the things that are tragic. I will take experiences that happen

"I think the funniest things in life are the things that are tragic."

BRIDGETTE BAKO

Movie Central program about sex, relationships and workin' it in tinsel town, a show that Bako stars in. It's a combination of the frank conversations and endearing female friendships found on *Sex in the City*, mixed with soft porn sex scenes, and the over the top, almost cartoon-like humour of *Ally McBeal*.

SEE spoke with Bako over the phone from her digs in NYC to find out more about the woman and her roll-up-your-sleeves-entrepreneurial spirit.

How do you describe the show?

When I set out to make this, what I wanted it to be was *Sex in the City* meets *Curb Your Enthusiasm* meets *Ab Fab*. *Sex in the City* because we're pretty dirty, *Curb Your Enthusiasm* because it's autobiographical, and *Ab Fab* because we're politically incorrect.

How do you feel when others compare your show to *Sex in the City*?

Honoured! I thought that was one of the best, most ground breaking shows ever. I just remember being inspired going "WOW, we can talk about this on television!" I'll never forget the day that I was sold that

but put them in a different place, so not everyone sues me at once.

The character Gigi is Canadian. You and most of the cast is made up of Canadian actors plus the show is filmed in Canada. The Canadian thing was because the Canadians were cool enough to take a first-time writer and give her own show. Which is something that would have never ever, ever happened in the United States...

All the girls live in Los Angeles, the entire cast came from L.A. and they all happen to be Canadian. And now after two seasons we all have boyfriends in Toronto but all live in Los Angeles and it just sucks.

How do you feel about your life and career now?

G-Spot completely changed my life. I discovered after 20 years of an acting career that my true passion is writing.

It's been my transition from the hood to womanhood, from actress-for-hire to the boss. And it's much better to be the boss.

SARAH HOWE

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- Kevin Lister, MTV.com

HUGH JACKMAN

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Sat & Sun Matinee
1:00pm Rated 14A
substance abuse, mature themes

FAST FOOD NATION
Nightly
9:10pm
Sat & Sun Matinee
3:10pm Rated 14A coarse language
sexual content, disturbing content

on screen

Save Ferris Bueller

Ho-hum Xmas feud flick threatens memories

DECK THE HALLS

Directed by John Whitesell. Starring Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick. Opens Fri, Nov 24.
★☆☆

HO HO HO—LET'S GET THE CHRISTMAS turkey comment out of the way, shall we?

Not just because it's obvious and crude, but because a certain amount of sympathy has to be extended to the actors contracted to work on this pathetic excuse for a holiday film.

Steve Finch (Matthew Broderick) is a stick-in-the-mud optometrist in a fairy tale New England town. He likes to plan his Christmas—he likes to plan the whole town's Christmas for that matter—and his family has to get dragged into the dreary minutiae of it all. New neighbor Buddy Hall (Danny DeVito) is a con man at heart—successful at anything he tries his hand at, but inevitably growing bored and moving on. He's dragged his wife and two kids to town for his new job as a car salesman (he sells the dealership owner a car within five minutes), but

really, he wants something big, something spectacular in his life.

He decides that this something should be Christmas decorations, so that his house can be seen from outer space.

Soon he's the guy that has thousands of dollars worth of lights festooning the house—an affront to Finch's sensibilities, if not ego—and he's planning more. Broderick feels his control slipping, and his innate New England snobbery takes over—he really dislikes his new neighbor and begins planning ways to take him down a notch.

What follows is a back-and-forth testing of wills, escalating revenge, and general nastiness.

The premise could only work if it truly went over the top—into cartoonish Road Runner and Coyote territory, as suggested by one sequence. Unfortunately, the film is too lackadaisical to go for that kind of frenetic energy—it makes feints in that direction, but ultimately veers off into the conventional and ho-hum, like an apathetic version of National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*, or *Christmas*



With the Cranks done on valium

Then there's the problem of the Broderick. Is this Ferris Bueller? A man who had knowing, immaculate timing as a teenager? Not if it's an evening mannequin smuggled in his pants. Let us have our memories of the back—please burn this abominable even *War Games* can no longer even evoke nostalgically.

Note: Grudgingly given extra because of the long sequence near where DeVito's house lights up with lights, video show, and music—it's a little impressive.

TOM MURPHY

Dumb and slammer

Cruel and unusual punishment with your popcorn

LET'S GO TO PRISON

Directed by Bob Odenkirk. Starring Dax Shepard, Will Arnett, Chi McBride, Michael Shannon, Dylan Baker. Now playing.
★☆☆

REVIEWING LET'S GO TO PRISON IS the closest that I've come as a critic to solitary confinement. There were four of us paying souls at the weekend afternoon screening I attended, and one of us laughed once.

It wasn't me.

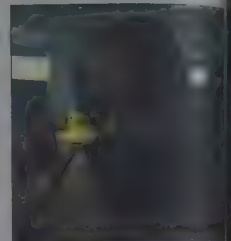
I instead spent my time wondering if director Bob Odenkirk and writers Robert Ben Garant, Thomas Lennon, and Michael Patrick Jann were coached by Adam Sandler and company, masterminds behind *Grandma's Boy*, about how to hoodwink major Hollywood studios into bankrolling half-baked, scattershot comedy sketches stretched into 90-minute movies? It sure looks like it, what with the film's adherence to the three-producer, five-executive-producer approach

Then I got to thinking how much better *Let's Go To Prison* would have been in the hands of the parody-spinning Zucker-Abrahams-Zucker team.

After all, there is a rich tradition of prison/escape movies to parody. How about *Shawshank Redemption*, or the absolutely ridiculously earnest piece of '80s shit *No Mercy*, featuring Kim Basinger in handcuffed bondage to Richard Gere?

But no, the current molley crew is interested solely in the lowest common denominator in this tale of perennial inmate John Lyshitski (Dax Shepard), who was incarcerated by hardass judge Nelson Biederman III three times in his mispent youth. Finally able to seek revenge but cheated by the judge's untimely death three days before his latest release, Lyshitski gleefully gets himself sent back to torture Nelson Biederman the IV (Will Arnett), his cellmate and the judge's clueless miscreant son.

There follows the usual tired crap about



showers, a sadistic warden, skinheads, and a gravelly-voiced African-American bull bear named Barry (Chi McBride, who does shine this shifty mess memorable) who bears a shine to Biederman.

Let's Go To Prison owes its one iota to kinda imaginative climax. But ultimately, a shame that the film's catchiest aspect is its marketing-hook title, and that once great comedy producers Tom Werner and Corcoran Corsey, listed as executive producers, are longingly lost out to the Reno 911 brain!

MIKE HEBBER

Watch out for bossman, kids

His penguins look good, but act silly

HAPPY FEET

Directed by George Miller. Starring the voices of Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Nicole Kidman, and the feet of Savion Glover. Now playing.
★★★★

YOUNG FRIENDS—YOU WEE ONES—HAPPY Feet is not a bad movie. And when I say it's not a bad movie, I mean two things.

It's not a bad movie because it's ok to watch. It's not really, really boring.

It's also not a bad movie like you'd say a dog was a bad dog. You'd never say, "Bad Happy Feet! Bad, bad movie!"

But I have to be completely honest with you, because everybody—your friends, probably, and maybe your parents, and definitely the TV—everybody is going to be telling you that you must must see *Happy Feet*, and I think there are some things you should know.

When I said *Happy Feet* wasn't a bad movie—bad boring or bad naughty—you might think, "That must mean that it's a good movie." I wouldn't say you were silly for thinking that.

But in this case, "not a bad movie" isn't the same as "good movie," and when I say it's not a good movie, I mean two things.

Again, sorry.

It's not a good movie because, even though some very smart people made this movie, I think they used too much money and time getting computers to tell the story instead of getting a really good and smart story to tell.

This movie's boss made another movie called *Mad Max* about a man in a kind of crazy time who has to do lots of superfast driving. Lyshitski gleefully gets himself sent back to torture Nelson Biederman the IV (Will Arnett), his cellmate and the judge's clueless miscreant son.

This time, the boss decided to put *Mad Max* and *Babe* together and make a movie about a penguin called Mumble who doesn't sing like the other penguins but dances, which mean he has to be very strong to be what he is and he gets involved in all kinds of adventures that mean he has to move around really fast.

That's fine, but sometimes the moving around really fast doing impossible stuff means that... well, it's like taking a whole bunch of your Halloween candy and stuffing it all in your mouth and then trying to swallow it. Yeah, right? You don't get to taste the candy and eventually it just gets boring... and maybe painful.

Happy Feet also isn't a good movie



because it's a little bit naughty, especially when it's trying to be good, although it's trying too hard. (Stop reading now if you're surprised.)

It wants you to think that if, let's say, a number of fish in the world is getting smaller, and penguins are running out of fish to eat, all that needs to happen is a dancing penguin has to do some impressive stunts and then get all of his penguin friends to dance, even though they've been just singing, and then some mean comes in a helicopter and everything will be fine.

You maybe be young, wee friends, that doesn't make you stupid.

KEVIN WILSON

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capsule film reviews

Babel The supplemental title to Alejandro González Iñárritu's latest film should be *Bad Things Happen to Everyone*. The director of *Amores Perros* and *21 Grams* offers another narrative, the pieces of which interlock in subtle but apparently meaningful ways to reveal how we're all connected, especially when we hurt, only going pin away at the false sense of security that our social structures and our undesired amount of privilege afford us, to show how quickly it all can be wiped away by cruel fate. The parallel tragedies invoked to explore this terrain, however, seem as false and poorly integrated as *Reservoir Dogs* applied to make Brad Pitt look like a middle-aged male. *Babel* seems bloated and not informed by its welter of weighty dimensions. ★★☆☆☆ (SL)

Barat: Cultural Learning of America for Mass Benefit Glorious Nation of Montenegro Sasha Baron Cohen's peculiar speaker: going out into the world posing as gormless characters, brushing up against the powerful and the ordinary and using his cheerful ignorance to expose the latent bigotry, hypocrisy, and idiosyncrasy of the world. Cohen is a walking special effect, so completely unencumbered in mock-duelessness that no amount of hostility will discourage him from perpetrating ever-greater obnoxiousities of etiquette, cultural sensitivity, and decency. Just when you think that he can't milk any more novelty out of his racist, sexist, homophobic, crude and potentially dumb alter-ego, Cohen ups the ante, surrounding outrage with outrage until there's a good chance you might wet yourself. Far and away the funniest movie of the year. ★★★★★ (SL)

The Departed Matt Damon is a cop working for Martin Sheen and Alec Baldwin. Leonardo DiCaprio reports to Irish mob boss Frank Costello (Jack Nicholson), whose thoughts are scarcely troubled by human feeling. Unfortunately, this *Matrix* Scorsese remake of a Hong Kong action classic gives the actors little to play with. So even though Damon is really working for Nicholson and DiCaprio is really a mole for the cops, and even though Nicholson gives a great performance, this trip to the outskirts of the dorkside doesn't impress. ★★☆☆☆ (MH)

Fast Food Nation Co-written by author Eric Schlosser and director Richard Linklater (*Slackers*, *Waking Life*), *Fast Food Nation* takes hard-hitting narrative and creates a plausible and convincing narrative sure to upend even the most jaded of diners. The cast, a who's who of independent and mainstream cinema, features Greg Kinnear as the well-meaning but impatient fast-food executive and Bruce Willis as his menacingly powerful, angry colleague. The frontline associates and "kickers" are teenagers just as likely to rob as to work as they are to show up on time for their

shifts. The gruesome final scenes of the killing floor in a meat plant are deeply disturbing. This is not an eclectic Hollywood romp, but a scathing examination of what goes into our food supply. (RM)

Flicka Flicka is a curious hybrid, one that follows the blueprint of the girl and horse and a dad who just doesn't understand her. Instead of drawing in the proceedings in cloying clichés, they have grounded the time-worn plot with a bracing dose of reality, while keeping the family-friendly tone intact. Alison (Maithecht Man) Lohman's Katy McLaughlin is a realistic, free-spirited, and unsentimental 16-year-old who whistles away the hours at her stuffy Laramie, Wyoming private school with daydreams of running her family's ranch. *Flicka* rises to the occasion, as wild as advertised, a fresh and intelligent family adventure. ★★☆☆☆ (MH)

A Good Year Russell Crowe plays a proudly ruthless London stock market trader. His Uncle Henry (Albert Finney) dies and leaves a chateau and vineyards in Provence... and the opportunity to stop and smell the roses. Pretty much heartfelt meditation on life, love and wine comes across as a forced and contrived excursion into the predictable. Crowe never really gets a grip on Skinner, and Ridley Scott's direction is unfocused and uninspired, failing to explore why Skinner has lost his way. Romantic comedy genre is neither Scott's or Crowe's forte: perhaps they should just stick to what they do best. ★★☆☆☆ (NC)

The Guardian An action/adventure/drama that focuses closely on the grueling requirements for US Coast Guard membership but which fails to develop characters that draw you in. Kevin Costner is the legendary live savior forced to instruct a new class of coast guard hopefuls, including cocky former swim champ Ashton Kutcher. Too many scenes focused on the quirky drills at the expense of getting a chance to know the characters. Costner's performance was mundane, Kutcher gets props for breaking his type-cast as a comedic sidekick, but in this cookie-cutter action movie, "deep" is a word reserved for the scenes with the seemingly bottomless ocean. ★★☆☆☆ (IT)

Half Nelson The surprise hit of EIFF tells the story of Daniel Dunne (Ryan Gosling), a junior high school history teacher at an inner city school and a drug addict. When he is caught smoking crack in the girls' locker room by one of his students, Drey (Shareeka Epps), the two of them are drawn together in an unusual friendship. Gosling (last seen in *The Notebook*) is amazing. Neither pitiful as a drug addict nor preachy about his role as an educator, he manages to embody these seeming opposites, a living example of a dialectic fighting for existence in one body. He's matched by

Epps' stoical performance: It's incredible watching this character come to the knowledge of the failings of adults, that grown-ups are not immune from mistakes, false hope, and delusion. ★★☆☆☆ (MS)

Little Miss Sunshine Unapologetic Olive (Abigail Breslin) has earned a place at the region of children's beauty pageant. Take a marathon road trip in a dilapidated VW bus. Cue a fresh take on most of the typical "road movie" clichés (and, indeed, a few surprises), some majorly funny family bonding moments, and a not unexpected lesson about winning and losing that man ages to stay just this side of squelchy. The performances are uniformly fantastic and the "abnormal humour" is perfect for late summer. ★★☆☆☆ (CN)

Marie Antoinette Sofia Coppola's biopic is frustrating, because it's difficult to see past the admittedly luxurious and glorious surfaces. We're supposed to get that Marie Antoinette—uneducated and only a teenager when she ascended the throne of France—was a woman of excess amidst the already extravagant excesses of court life, and we are meant to think about this story in the context of modern times, but she makes us work so hard to get any point from the movie. It always feels like we're projecting our desire for a point onto it, excusing the film rather than allowing it to speak for itself. ★★☆☆☆ (MS)

The Queen This is undeniably a classic two-hander about the Elizabethan monarch and her advisor, yet there's something not quite on about the idea of a film on the present monarch. In the 21st Century we ought to have got over our strange fascination with hereditary power and privilege. Fears' film seems altogether too soft and reverential, though it masquerades as a witty critique of all things royal. This is a film that, for all its scenes of Elizabeth doing "normal" things like drinking tea, answering telephones, weeping, and swearing has no interest in determining whether the members of the monarchy are really "just like us." ★★☆☆☆ (CN)

The Return The story begins with a late night car crash and ends 85 minutes later a few meters away, in the middle of the road, perfect for this mediocre supernatural thriller. Sarah Michelle Gellar stars as a skittish loner who cuts herself because of disturbing, somewhat Lynchian, flashbacks. Someone or something is trying to tell her something, but to hide the fact that she's dealing with a fairly simple puzzle, one not worthy of a feature-length running time, she investigates ever... so... slowly. The weather-beaten gothic atmosphere can't save the movie from the lackluster mystery and the half-formed, carelessly employed characters. ★★☆☆☆ (DA)

Saw III Most of the criticisms one could level at a movie like *Saw III*—the convoluted, laughably implausible plot, the shitty acting, etc.—are simply moot. This film exists for one reason only: to inspire revulsion, and on that account it exceeds remarkably. Like the other *Saw* films, the premise finds unwitting victims trapped into loving designed and falsified torture devices from which the only means of escape post grisly *Catch 22s*. And that's about it. All action outside of the gore in *Saw III* is merely cursory. You want human degradation and suffering? You got it. It's hard to recall a film in recent memory, if ever, that equals the abundance of agony on display here. So, if that sounds like a good time to you have it—this film has it all. ★☆☆☆☆ (ZV)

School for Scoundrels Based on the premise that a perfectly nice guy (with less than smooth moves) can be taught to be a ladykiller. Roger (Jon "Napoleon Dynamite" Heder) is a well-meaning young fellow who just can't seem to catch a break. Enter Dr. P. (Billy Bob Thornton), a mysterious man who teaches a secret course to turn wimps into alpha males. You'd think that at some point the movie would question the idea of such lowest-common-denominator concepts of masculinity. A remake of a 1960 British film, which is itself based on a series of real-life self-help books: maybe that's why the 2006 version seems so retro in its values. ★★☆☆☆ (MS)

Shut Up and Sing One needn't be a bumbling Kazakhstani reporter to trick Americans into revealing their tragic-comically ugly side. Ostensibly the film is about how, despite a reactionary boycott after their anti-Bush remarks, the Dixie Chicks refused to be silenced. But the true revelation, lies in how this was able to happen, thanks to the well-heeled Blue State handler types that try to coach the Chicks through the crisis. Only singer Natalie Maines seems to possess any character, flipping the proverbial bird back at country radio and crafting songs with a new thematic heft out of her experiences. Given the void of critical discourse across the board in the initial stages of Dubya's imperial folly, it all makes for an often funny film that's truly no laughing matter. ★★☆☆☆ (ZV)

Stranger Than Fiction Harold Crick (Will Ferrell) wakes up to find that his every move and gesture is being narrated, only to discover that he's actually a character in a book and the voice is that of writer Kay Eiffel (Emma Thompson). It sounds like a great idea, but somehow it goes off the rails, possibly because it's really just Charlie Kaufman by numbers. Everyone is too retrained (including Ferrell), making the scenes ponderous and slow—bad news for a film that, at its core, is still a comedy. Nothing seems to ever gel, and every moment where you find yourself caught up

in the story is undercut by something that knocks you out of it—forced "poignancy," unnecessarily elaborate and clunky shots and sets, artificial whimsy. ★☆☆☆☆ (TM)

Reviewers: Dave Alexander, Nathan Cuckow, Mike Hebert, Scott Lingley, Lech Linkiel, Roberto McDonald, Tom Murray, Seth Nichols, Mari Sosano, Isha Thompson, Zoltan Voradi

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my look

Name: Jesse Morrison

Occupation: Full-time student at NAIT, part-time chef de partie

Location: The halls of NAIT

Describe your style: I am HOBO Couture. I like mixing vintage with stuff that takes months to buy

What are you wearing: The hat is from Holt Renfrew (10180-101 St.). I purchased it with gift certificates they gave me last year when I danced in the store. The button shirt is from good old Value Village (multiple locations), as is my trench coat. My sweater is from a friend who left it at my place last Christmas. My shoes are Atmosphere from Sport Chek (multiple locations). The jeans are FCUK. The glasses are Diesel from IRIS Eye Care (Kingsway Garden Mall).

What are you into? B-boying, baking, cooking. I am also into James Brown and tattoos

Not into: Dancing at bars due to broken glass and wet floors. I am also not ever into well done steaks—it diminishes the flavour. Look it's already dead—you should enjoy the flavour.

How's life: Lately I am such a slave to school and work. I saw the movie *Lager Cake* on the weekend and I found the name of the movie indicative of my current situation, not only because I am making cakes in school but more poignantly because I am really into rising higher and higher in my goals

TED KERR



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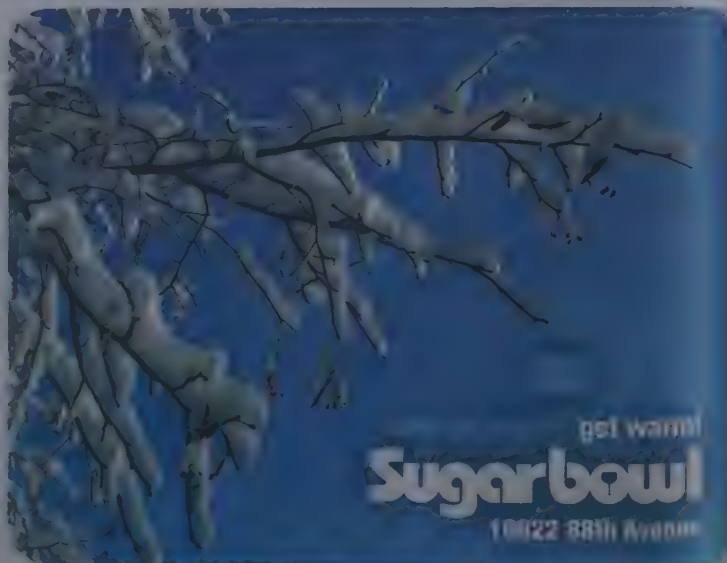
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Wed. Nov 29, Royal Alberta Museum Theatre (2845-102 Ave.), 7 pm. Tickets \$10 for non-members \$5 for members

MARTHA LANGFORD: WHAT USE IS

PHOTOGRAPHY? Thu. Nov 30, AGA Theatre (2 St Winston Churchill Square), 7 pm. Tickets \$10 for non-members \$8 AGA members and students

A MUSEUM, OR AT LEAST OUR CITY'S museum, conjures up the image of stuffed beasts timelessly preserved in action. In a broader view though, museums stand as galleries housing historically significant artifacts, an archive of our culture, and most importantly, a site—an all-important repository—of constant memory.

The Art Gallery of Alberta, in partnership with M.A.D.E., is currently bringing in a host of museum architects from around the world to engage the public in discussing the future of these elusive buildings. Next week, Antoine Predock, winner of the 2006 American Institute of Architects Gold Medal, will be sharing his thoughts at the Royal Museum of Alberta Theatre. With the grand unveiling of the Royal Alberta Museum's 200 million dollar expansion led by Coho Evamy & Lund-

project that are moving—and touch us you beyond mere function

Although this will be his first time in Edmonton, Predock is no doubt familiar with our prairie weather. One of his latest designs was for The Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg, his first Canadian project.

"I'm very honoured to be involved," he explains from his home base in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "It's funny that it's being called a museum because it's going to be so much more, it's going to be a centre for proactive work for change, not just in Canada's actions in human rights, but in all global endeavours."

Known for his environmentally sensitive designs and contours, shapes that often seemingly grow organically and conceptually within their natural surrounding, Predock has practiced a lifetime of fusing motion within design.

"There are choreographic elements to many of my buildings, processional entranceways, and I was co-director of a dance company when I was at Columbia in New York," says Predock, who—although he sports a mane of white—remains a motorcycle enthusiast and has been known to ski off the roofs of his buildings.

"Architecture is my field and all the other things that come are the edges. I design buildings. But sometimes the linkages between buildings are as interesting as the buildings themselves."

Once the AGA moves to its new digs (while under construction, the AGA moves to the former Hudson Bay building on Jasper Ave.), the gallery plans on creating an innovative Centre for Photography and New Media.

As a precursor to this grand conception comes a season of photogra-

phy lectures, starting next Thursday

Inspired by the gallery's already substantial photographic collection and its reputation as a historically important institution in developing fine art photography in Western Canada, the lecturers will hopefully shed some light on one of the most important art forms of the 20th Century.

The first speaker will be Canadian Martha Langford, fresh from a trip to Paris as a constant lecturer in her field. Assistant professor in art history at Montreal's Concordia University and founding Director and Chief Curator of the Canadian Museum of

Contemporary Photography, her book *Afterlife in Memory in Photography Albums* was short-listed for the Harold Adams Innis Prize in Social Sciences. She has also served as Executive Producer of the Still Photography Division at the National Film Board and Artistic Director for Montreal "Mons de la Photo" in 2005.

Langford will mostly lecture from her PhD thesis, paralleling the possibilities of new media to the colonizing and democratizing effects photography raised with its inception in the 19th Century.

AMY FUNG

Cowboys and Indians (and Metis?)

David Garneau

artist talks wed nov 22

5 pm: U of A Fine Arts Building 2-20 0045-1500 mm Theatre

opening 7pm thurs nov 23

exhibition runs until dec 23

Paul Smith

Running Through Flames & other contemporary peculiarities

artist talk at opening

harcourt house

free admission

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ART ON THE GO

■ The University's BFA students are having their fall semester silent auction on Thu. Nov 23, from 6:30 - 10 pm on the 3rd floor of the Fine Arts Building. Walk around at your leisure and bid a dot on whatever your heart desires. Get it while it's cheap, folks.

■ Harcourt House opens two new exhibitions on display until Dec 23. Paul Smith's "Running Through Flames" opens in the Front Room accompanied by an artist talk on Thu. Nov 23 Reception starts at 7 pm. In the Main Room, David Garneau presents "Cowboys and Indians (and Metis?)".

■ Finally, please give a warm welcome to Jessica Ise, Latitude 53's new Program Officer.



Cerebellum rock

Chad VanGaalén connects the dots on sophomore record

CHAD VANGAALÉN
W/ These Hands, Lane Arndt, Fri, Nov 24,
Sidetrack Café (10238-104 St.), Info 421-1326
or www.sidetrackcafe.com. \$15

SKILL CONNECTION IS A HORRIBLE mess," blurts out Chad VanGaalén over the phone from his Calgary home. "I don't regret it, but don't think it's that strong of an album. I was totally scattered through the process, people were trying to convince me to go into a studio and that was a real nightmare for me. I mean, everything worked out in the end, but..." He leaves it hanging.

That's interviewing paydirt right there, but journalistic ethics demands an instant rejoinder (here and on the phone) that VanGaalén is being a little too hard on himself.

While the first true release in his Sub Pop Records deal doesn't have the same sense of surprise his first album *Infiniheart* had—or a backlog of songs dating over a period of years, for that matter—it still gives you that sense of a songwriter extending his craft. The strange, random electronic bleeps and roughed up textures are still there, along with the acoustic balladry and fragile vocals, but by now that's all a given with the multi-instrumentalist songwriter.

How do you top an imposing debut like *Infiniheart*, which not only gathered raves from respected magazines and newspapers like *MOJO*, *Entertainment Weekly*, and *The Guardian*, but actually broke out to

become an indie rock hit despite its casual, basement recorded origins? In VanGaalén's case, by trying to resist his own blueprint, forgetting that it was designed for a reason—it suited him.

And if there's nothing as immediately arresting as "Clinically Dead" or "Blood Machine" from the first album, there's still gratification to be had in the likes of "Flower Gardens" and "Red Hot Drops," along with a handful of other songs that stand up against the best that *Infiniheart* has to offer.

FRACTURED SKELETON

"Yeah," he admits, "okay, it's not a bad album—it's too fractured, though. I was over-thinking it, and that's my worst enemy—when I'm at my best I'm thinking of nothing and letting my bad ideas disappear, y'know, letting whatever comes out that's spontaneous, natural, and maybe a bit naïve."

VanGaalén insists that a planned B-sides vinyl reissue of *Skillconnection* will give the album a more cohesive feel, that there'll be more of a story behind it.

"Thing is, at the time I didn't want to be pigeonholed as this naïve, lo-fi folk guy, but now I've actually sunken back into it realizing that that's what I love and that's how I function best."

"It's a human thing," he continues, referring to his recording modus operandi, "and that's why I want all those clicks and hisses in the

background, all that crap—because the best music in the world to me is music that sounds like I could do it. I want to present it in the most unpretentious way possible—I don't want it to be glossy."

VanGaalén notes that there's nothing in his Sub Pop contract demanding that he tour behind the album—he actually stated up front that he didn't want to be away from home for long periods of time—and yet, he's found himself doing exactly that. For someone who spent so many years perfecting his musical skills in a basement it has to be awfully hard to also invent yourself as a live performer, or a road warrior for that matter.

"My girlfriend and family have to remind me that I don't have to go insane and end up at the bottom of a river," he jokes. "I'm pretty bad at saying no, and there's all these great opportunities and I don't want to hurt people's feelings—I mean, there are all these great bands that want to tour and do fun stuff, but when it comes down to it is my sanity is way more important."

EPIPHANY AND EQUILIBRIUM

There's also the no-doubt-strange feeling of playing music that he once composed and recorded simply for himself and his friends suddenly being presented to a much larger audience.

"It's scary. All of a sudden you're playing to however many people in New York City and you're like

"what the fuck is going on here? Wow, this is not what I expected. I want to be giving people the most positive energy I can, and not be jaded."

This winter will find VanGaalén working on animations, planning a few videos, attempting to find the much-needed balance between the many worlds he juggles—music, relationships, and art.

"Now I'm back to square one again, writing more stuff than ever, and really excited about being creative and not having to explain why. It's just been so crazy, worrying about people critiquing it at the end of the day, and wondering 'what are people going to think?' Well, now I'm back to 'fuck it—I don't care.'"

That's good news for those of us who want VanGaalén to simply follow his own muse regardless of where it leads him—and for now, the muse is leading him to Philip K. Dick.

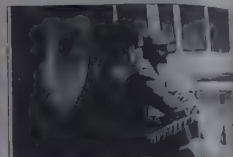
"I've been reading a book called *What If Our World Is Their Heaven—The Final Conversations of Philip K. Dick*, and mostly thinking about his final unfinished novel, *The Owl and The Daylight*."

"I got so excited—I had an epiphany at like five in the morning and I just couldn't put the book down. I'm thinking that I'm going to propose to his estate a 30-minute animation of that story, which was going to be his masterpiece—in his own mind at least."

TOM MURRAY

HOT TICKETS

MUST-SEE SHOWS



TEAM BUILDING

■ Thu, Nov 23, Sidetrack Café (10238-104 St.), 9 pm
Experimental rock that, hmm, builds and builds? Loud.



SNIC

EDMONTON INDIE UNSCENE

■ Fri, Nov 24, Avenue Skatepark (9030-118 Ave.), 7 pm, ALL AGES
Atrophy Manuscript, End Credits, Red Hatters, Daggers, Desiderata, SNIC. Edmonton's ready to blow up again. See p. 35



TOKYO POLICE CLUB

■ Fri, Nov 24, Powerplant (U of A), 8 pm
You better shake it, punks, or the Police will get ya!



KILLSWITCH ENGAGE

■ Tue, Nov 28, Edmonton Events Centre (WEM), 6 pm, ALL AGES
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WINTERSLEEP

■ Thu, Nov 30, Starlite Room (10030-102 St.), 8 pm
Guaranteed to be one of the most mind-blowing shows of the year. Be there so you can say you were. Story next page

Afraid of God and his angry clouds

Halifax's Wintersleep storm out of the fog

WINTERSLEEP
 Marwan Haen, Thu, Nov 30, Starlite Room
 (10030-102 St.), 8 pm, Info: 428-7827 or
 www.starlite.com.ca, \$14

PAUL MURPHY'S LAUGHTER DOES A good job at hiding the loss and despair in Wintersleep's lyrics.

Murphy himself does a pretty good job at hiding the true feelings in the source of his quartet's music, which comes across as a heady mix not too distant from Pearl Jam, Hayden, Neil Young, and Radiohead would sound like.

Yet, at the heart of Wintersleep's work is a deep sense of urgency, heartache, and death.

"It sounds like a lame answer but I think it's just fueled by everyday life," explains the vocalist/guitarist. "I think I like having songs that have a kind of vague quality to them."

"It's not vague for me," he quickly adds, "but different people could apply it in different ways. I like that idea—different people coming up and saying that 'this' was what this particular song meant to them. It's something that I really like about our music. I definitely like to keep it a little mysterious."

Well, that's an understatement if we ever heard one.

Carried by Murphy's quivering, gruff voice (watch out for the Eddie Vedder comparisons), his words take on multiple meanings—fearful and fearful, Murphy borders on religious allegory as he sings "There was laughter once/There were pretty songs/Pull the metal shards/In my clotted blood/On my wet skin/On my burning skies/I will close my eyes/I will close my eyes" right before the break on "Laws of Life" or "Was I sleeping all the time/Was my shadow ever mine?" in similar fashion on "Danse Macabre" (both from 2005's untitled sophomore release).

Wintersleep's rock is a punch to the gut, at times building up to grandiose moments of unadulterated, raucous alternative 'n' r brava-do (with massive drum breaks and bone-raising distorted surges), at times soft and understated and stretched softly on acoustic guitar.

The band is growing to be a unique rock beast by not only being mind-blowingly engaging both in concert and on record, but also by being surrealistically meaningful for its listeners.

Perhaps Murphy had already announced Wintersleep's eventual rise to glory back in 2003 with a song, "Orca," in which he proclaimed "I'll be a killer whale when I grow up/I'll be a monster."

"I have a love/hate relationship with that song," he admits with a chuckle. "In Halifax, because it has reached a weird status and it's on mainstream radio, you're playing a show and people are yelling it out. And no one else in the country knows this song. Go to fucking Toronto and no one gives a shit about 'Orca.' But it's one of those songs you feel like you should play. It's the 'Creep' in the self."

Five years after their inception, countless Canadian tours, and after garnering a devoted following (especially in Edmonton, where their shows usually sell out fast and draw a crowd that practically knows the material word-for-word), Wintersleep could very well be on their way to receiving the attention they deserve.



Both self-titled albums have recently been picked up by Sonic Unyon/EMI distributed label Lab-work (the label's first signing, in fact) and re-released with additional tracks, a process which also gives the band a U.S. distribution deal through Caroline Records.

While the band perhaps remains too indie to be mainstream and too mainstream to be fully indie ("There's definitely a lot of truth to that," ventures Murphy), Wintersleep fans can rejoice in knowing

that the band's third album should be completed in early 2007.

And for Murphy, who left us expecting the best by declaring, "I'm afraid of God and all his angry clouds/I'm afraid the world will die without a sound/I was just trying to say something beautiful, something meaningful" on the Hayden-esque "People Talk," the coast is now clear to storm the world.

"Being from Nova Scotia is something that makes us a little unique," He laughs. "It's a kind of darker area of the country—foggy and raining all the time."

FRANÇOIS MARCHAND



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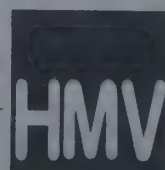
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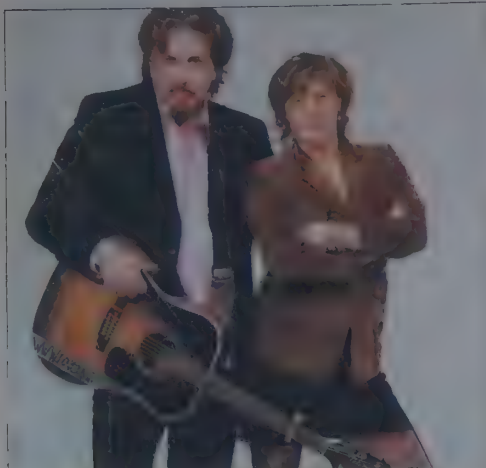
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MUSICMAN AND MUSE Tom Wilson and Cathy Jones

Blackie and babe

A tale of country, love, comedy, and Canadiana

CATHY JONES & BLACKIE AND THE RODEO KINGS
Fri, Nov 24, Winspear Centre (4 St Winston Churchill Square), 8 pm, Info: 428-1414 or www.winspearcentre.com, \$30 - \$39

THEY DON'T HAVE THE WORLD'S paparazzi chasing them down to the ground like "Brangelina" or "Tomkat" but Cathy Jones and Tom Wilson certainly qualify as a celebrity couple—a Canadian one, that is.

Jones has taken to the stage for over 30 years but is best known for her television work, where she's brought characters like Babe Bennett, Mrs. Enid, and Joe Crow into millions of homes every week for the past 14 years on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*.

Wilson rocks the world with long-time buddies Colin Linden and Stephen Fearing as Blackie and The

Rodeo Kings, while pausing only to work on more collaborations and his own successful solo career.

So as they come together to show off the best of both of their worlds and head out on the road for a variety-type show, which lifestyle is more fun?

The successful musician or the successful actress?

"That's a very interesting question," notes Jones when comparing her daily grind to that of her partner's. "Just last night Tom said how much fun he was having getting ready for the tribute to The Band [for a future episode of *OnStage* on CBC Radio] and with all of the people he was working with.

"And I said, 'You definitely have more fun. Dressing up like a cowboy from *Deadwood*, waving your hair around and singing songs to

"I just wanna marry him, be cute, and make sure he takes his vitamins and stays alive."

CATHY JONES

girls.' The jams that he gets into all the time with all sorts of musicians are really amazing."

Jones hopes that people will enjoy the variety show concept but admits that the tour will just be a nice way to spend time with Tom, as their schedules can sometimes keep them apart for a long time.

"I just wanna marry him, be cute and make sure that he takes his vitamins and stays alive," laughs Jones. "I told him that I'd been looking for him since I was seven years old. That's 44 years!"

And she looks forward to spending quality time with the other musicians as well.

"A lot of musicians are really funny.

"Colin Linden has the best sense of humour. I find rock musicians to be beautiful, emotional, open people because they're going to be a different breed than someone who doesn't write poetry every day.

"At the same time, they can be annoying as well," jokes Jones who's probably winking over the phone.

"They do say I'm hilarious," concedes Jones when asked about what makes something, or someone, funny. "Basically, I get hilarious because I'm irritated by things.

Does that add fuel to the political satire of *22 Minutes*?

"We have a lot of amazing writers who work on the topical ideas of the show. Most of the writing I do is for stand-up, shows, and festivals.

In addition to her beloved characters, Jones will present portions of her successful one-woman shows *Wedding In Texas* and *Me, Dad And The Hundred Boyfriends*.

"I often fly by the seat of my pants," admits Jones. "One out of three shows should really suck."

She's just as straight up on the stage as she is about her personal life, and her one-woman shows delicately balance humour and heartache—often taken directly or indirectly from her own life.

"I lived a very *Leave It To Beethoven* life until I was 12 and my dad became an alcoholic," Jones simply states.

"I think creative people have various shagged-up lives that makes them kinda go that way but not if life is too good or too bad. You can kill the person with too much adversity and people become bored with too little. But I think some adversity makes people curious and creative."

And, perhaps, to help understand what they have.

"32 years in comedy and I've been very lucky and able to make good money," reflects Jones. "But I really just wanna marry Tom."

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FRANÇOIS MARCHAND THE FM DIAL

THE DEARS: THE TRUTH, THE HYPE, THE UNIVERSE!

FRANK FRONTMAN MURRAY LIGHTBURN IS shopping for some gear. Between answering questions and looking at guitars and "a new set of bells" for wife/co-member Natalia (he's shopping for chimes), Lightburn sighs, laughs nervously, hesitates.

Yes, The Dears (playing at the Starlite Room on Sat, Nov 25) remain a constantly reinvented band. Ever since their explosion in Montreal's new pop romantic noir chic in the late '90s and early 2000s, everyone's been trying to get a piece of them. From *End of a Hollywood Bedtime Story* (2000) to the grandiose, symphonic *No Cities Left* (2004), the Dears have been, for better or for worse, a focus of the alternative press—eyed and picked at, exposed or misunderstood.

With 2006's *Gang of Losers*, their latest pop noir effort, Lightburn and The Dears are trying to shake off the old hype. And Lightburn was more than ready to get the last word in about the function of music as art, the press, and everything else in between.

The FM Dial: How did you approach making *Gang of Losers*?

Murray Lightburn: I think what we've tried to do is make something that is a little more easily understood and less exclusive—non-bitchy music. Hopefully it'll stand the test of time, and if someone doesn't pick it up now they'll pick it up later.

But to a certain extent, you've been tagged "trendy" from the onset. How do you manage to detach yourself from it now? I have this thing about when we travel and sometimes we stay in hotels, and I'm able to assess hotels in different categories. There's the new, hip, trendy hotel, which I try to avoid even though, sometimes, they're really nice. But my favourite is the "once glorious" hotel. It's the hotel that's just on the edge of falling apart. It's not a shit-hole, it's clean, it's a solid hotel, but it doesn't have the glory that it once had when it was open. It was rather glorious and probably written about in magazines.

I think The Dears are not quite a "once glorious" hotel, but I think we've transcended or we're about to, or are in the process of transcending that—because the hipsters now want nothing to do with us. So every time we see a changing of the guard, a turnover of fans. There's only a few left from the glory days and *End of a Hollywood Bedtime Story*. There's really only a few. We gained a lot of new fans on *No Cities Left* and now we're seeing it again with *Gang of Losers*; a new crop is coming up and it's piss-off all the *No Cities Left* fans. So we have to make sure that they all get along.

Would you say you've benefited or are still benefiting from a certain kind of hype? I've never seen The Dears benefit from anything to be honest with you. (Laughs) I'm just standing around—sort of. On some levels I suppose there've been some cool things that have come out of press-type stuff or whatever. But there's been a lot of really lame things said about us—being where we are.

Like what? It's such a tricky job—having to do press at all in a perfect world, one who makes art would never ever talk to a journalist about art—because the nature of the newspaper is just about sensationalizing something to get people to buy whatever publication it is. Sometimes things happen and things get said, and they didn't have to.

How so?

Dude, I don't trust you enough so I'm not going to bother. (Laughs) I don't trust you guys, I'm sorry. Some of my best friends are journalists to be honest with you, and I still don't trust them.

So is it a waste of time to be talking to a music journalist like me?

I don't know anymore. I think sometimes it's really cool and every once in a while I'll see a piece on the band that's pretty bang-on. You'll do five in a row that are like that and then one will come along and destroy all the work you've done.

You can never really get your point across in the media. You want your records to do the talking—you know what I mean? But it never works that way. Especially now with the blogs and the Internet—it's so out of control.

Well, given the opportunity, what point would you like to get across?

That no matter what you hear about this band, no matter what you read, no matter what you think, and no matter how dark the band can be—I know these people and I know this band and I know what it's about—and

I don't know how we got here. How did we get here?

What do you see happening with The Dears in the future?

I just want to continue doing what we do—putting our whole heart, soul, and bodies into what we do. If it ever so happens that it's not happening anymore, then it's time to quit. Every night we get out there it's like a ghost on the stage—it's insane the sort of exorcism going on. It's hardcore. I think that's really the whole point of it, you know? Let the universe do the talking.

So what's the universe saying right now?

The universe is saying... (Laughs) Nice try

JAZZING UP SUMMER

SAY GOODBYE TO THE YARBIRD JAZZ Festival, and wish a warm welcome to the Edmonton International Jazz Festival. After a few years of being in limbo (after the unfortunate demise of ol' Jazz City), the Edmonton jazz scene finally gets a true high-profile event to call its own.

"The Yarbird Jazz Festival was a litmus test for the viability of an Edmonton jazz festival tradition," says Kent Sangster, appointed as the EIF's executive director. "The Edmonton International Jazz Festival [will be] about improving every aspect of the festival, for artists, audiences, and volunteers alike."

Watch out for the EIF, gearing up to blow your socks off in 2007, from June 22–July 1.

THE END OF A SAGA?

CONGRATULATIONS TO MUSIC PROMOTER Brent Oliver who, after many hardships following his firing from the Sideltrack Café, has recently been hired as the booking agent/talent buyer for the Starlite Room.

Keeping a finger on the musical pulse fmarchand@see.greatwest.ca

THE BUZZ

"LEAVE ME ALONE, I'M BUSY!" EXCLAIMS CJSR 88.5 music director Jay Hannley. "You see, my computer has the new Tom Waits' triple-disc extravaganza on repeat. Waits' newest contains 30 new tunes and a plethora of older unreleased ones he has had lying around the house—you know, shoved under the couch hanging out with dirty socks, an old playbill, and that bottle of bourbon he forgot there last month. 56 tracks in all, divided between three discs, each having a theme—"Brawlers," "Bawlers," and "Bastards." When put together they form the collective work Waits titles *Orphans*. It is here that we see all of the different personas of Waits in one big package."



TRUST ISSUES
Murray Lightburn
(front) fires back

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**NOVEMBER 24
THE MARTIN KERN BAND**
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music

Outside looking in

N.W.A focus hip-hop's lens on America's conscience

N.W.A
Straight Outta Compton
Producer: Dr Dre and Yella. Released: August 1988. Studio: Audio Achievement, Torrance, Ruthless/ Priority # 57102

ALBUM 60 (OUT OF 100)
IN 1988, FEW HAD HEARD THE HIP-HOP emerging outta sunny Cali. New York and the East Coast still reigned supreme and names like Compton and South Central had little of the emotional connotations they evoke today. The sleeve of N.W.A's second album foreshadowed the future in many ways, its photo capturing the viewer lying on the street, the victim of a mugging, with six young, black gangsters looking down.

The moniker "gangsta rap" hadn't yet been coined, but was thrown about more frequently as the album's reputation grew. Of the six young men in the photo, three attained superstardom: the one pointing the gun, Eric "Eazy-E" Wright, the one next to him, Andre "Dr. Dre" Young, and the one at the top staring upside down, O'Shea "Ice Cube" Jackson.

N.W.A stood for Niggaz With Attitude and the group claimed that the late '80s equivalent of the Vietnam War took place in the streets of L.A.—a dirty war many Americans were ashamed of and hence pretended didn't exist.

N.W.A took upon themselves the task of reporting how things really were. As Ice Cube put it in an early interview, "We're like reporters."

SOMETHING LIKE THAT
Indeed, the 1986 Eazy-E single "Boyz 'N the Hood," produced by Dr. Dre and hence an early N.W.A prototype, ran like a report on crime fighting measures fed through a shredder. When *Straight Outta Compton* was released, it immediately garnered enormous attention with lyrics that were deemed violent and demoralizing. The video accompanying the title track was banned by MTV (at the time, still a station of some consequence), while media



100LPs
LECH UNKIE

outlets throughout the Western world accused N.W.A of glorifying violence.

Dr. Dre added to ambiguity in a Channel 4 News interview by paraphrasing the channel's own slogan: "We're not on the good side of violence, we're not on the bad, we're in the middle."

Some time later the voices criticizing N.W.A for exaggerating the situation in South Central were silenced by a completely different type of amateur-reporter—one equipped with a video camera—who could display, and prove, the reality that N.W.A had described in tracks like "Fuck Tha Police." When the entire Western world had seen the grainy, amateur film, in which police officers brutalized a young black man named Rodney King, no one could any longer claim that Ice Cube & Co.—despite merely using samplers and recording devices as their

reporting tools—had exaggerated anything.

SOMETHING 2 DANCE 2

What stops *Straight Outta Compton* from being described as social commentary is the music itself: an extremely subjective and unimbraced of the whole American blues and funk tradition, from Robert Johnson and Howlin' Wolf, James Brown and Sly Stone. Though they may not always have been on the best of terms personally, the interaction in the studio between rappers Ice Cube, Lorenzo "Mt. Ren" Patterson and Eazy-E, producers Dr. Dre and Antoine "Yella" Carraby on this album shimmer throughout.

Almost all of late '90s hip-hop found inspiration on this album.

Ice Cube laid the foundation for his solo albums *AmeriKKKas*, *Wanted* and *The Predator* here, while one of the *Straight*'s best tracks, "Gangsta Gangsta," anticipated Dr. Dre's skilful application of funk which turned his own debut album *The Chronic*, into one of the '90s most musically progressive.

Straight Outta Compton captures N.W.A at their best, when their amoral, hedonistic stance could still be seen as serious, vital commentary and before Ice Cube and Dr. Dre led the group turned into a misogynist, unapologetically violent parody of itself.

COMPLEMENTS

Ice Cube *The Predator*, 1992, Priority # 57185
Dr. Dre *The Chronic*, 1993, Priority/Interscope # 57128
Warren G *Regulate... The G-Funk Era* 1994, Violator/Ruff House # 523 335

■ Though Eazy-E allegedly founded Ruthless Records with funds from drug running, he street-cred suffered in later years due to his association with the Republican Party.
■ *Straight Outta Compton* was released in an edited version with all profanities replaced by silly antics, in effect parodying edited, censored albums.

Raising the Fawn all grown up

But Edmonton misses the boat

RAISING THE FAWN
W/ In-Flight Safety, Fri, Nov 17, Powerplant (U of A)

"I LIKED THESE GUYS THEY REMIND ME OF something."

I'll tell you what In-Flight Safety reminds you of, bud. They remind you of fucking Coldplay. And you like them because Coldplay reminds you—now that they've stopped trying to be Radiohead—of goddamn U2. And who doesn't like U2 these days? Just listen to any of those new "indie" rock bands with an "Edge," and a couple stacca-stacca drum punches, and you'll realize that progress stopped when U2 dropped the Bomb and Coldplay figured X&Y were both axes of evil. Tight, perhaps, but oh-so-predictable.

As for Raising the Fawn—holy hell. The 40 people or so that actually showed up to see the gig (thanks to an "all-ages" schedule which pushed their performance way past midnight—seriously, what's the big idea?) were treated to the majestic: a devastating

"Carbon Paper" and "The Maginot Line" that punched and crunched the living crap out of your eardrums, a unique rendition of the mini-Korg keyboard-spattered elegy "Christmas in the Fields" complete with a never-before-heard improvised flute accompaniment, "The North Sea" and "Gwendolyn" cresting and falling like giant waves on

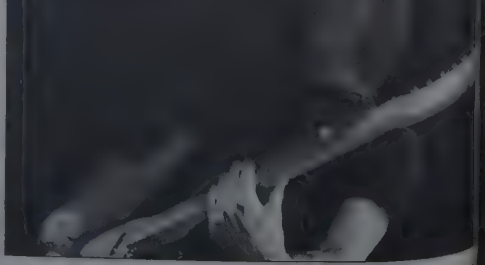
stormy cliffs, and the most grandiose strobed-out, thunder and lightning "Drown" in history—an epic 15-minute nuclear rock fantasy that brought frontman John Crossingham and Co.'s vessel to rest on feedback-soaked shore.

Political without relying on the obvious. Personal in the only way good rock reaches everyone without trying. Simply haunting.

And to think their Calgary gig was possibly sold-out and that Edmontan, once again, missed the boat...

FRANÇOIS MARCHAND

STORMY PERFORMANCE
Raising the Fawn's John Crossingham



They come from... where?

McMurray indie rockers set up camp in E-town

DESIDERATA
 • W of Edmonton indie Unesco w/ End
 • Media: Red Hot Daggers, SNIC, and more,
 • Nov 24, Avenue Statepark (9030-118
 • A.M. 7 pm, Info: pushpins.seraph-seraph.com,
 • \$8 ALL AGES

AND THINGS HAPPEN WHEN YOU
 just expect them. There's many a
 fortune cookie with such a proverb,
 I'm sure, and rarely can you
 anticipate such clichéd, optimistic
 crap with fact. In the case of Desiderata
 and small town indie rock's latest
 champions, such words of wisdom
 have definitely proven true.

Desiderata create intense, venom-
 belled music in the vein of great
 acts like the Red Light Sting and
 Nilsson of Burma. However, they
 don't hail from some landmark
 breeding grounds like Vancouver,
 Boston, or Chicago, although their
 sound would certainly have you
 believe the opposite. Instead,
 Desiderata come from Alberta's oil-
 patched economic heartland: Ft.



than a few ripple effects outside of
 the tight-knit Western Canada

Edmonton.
 Surprisingly, things are moving
 relatively quick for the band. After a
 recording session at the legendary
 JIVE Studios in Vancouver with
 Mike Cander (of West Coast indie
 powerhouses Ghost House, DBS,
 and Black Lace fame), Desiderata's
 momentum began to spread like a fore-
 fire within the very scene that
 they admired so fiercely.

The Red Light Sting's *Hands Up*
 was one of the most influential
 records ever," confesses Desiderata's
 Blair Drover. "And Andy Dickson—
 he's actually doing our artwork."

Seeing these guys is a big thing for
 us.

High praise, indeed, especially for
 a band that has made little more

sphere-of-indie-influence. However
 reassures Drover, there's a history
 behind Desiderata's admiration of
 Vancouver music.

"We had these friends that grew
 up in Vancouver, and they came up
 and showed us a couple of albums,"
 Drover recalls. "People that move to
 Ft. McMurray to make money can
 next to you and become your
 friends. We weren't always the band
 that we are—we used to be a
 skatepunk band. Now, when we
 play, there's a look on a lot of peo-
 ple's faces that's like, 'What the hell
 is this?' And that's an attitude that's
 getting better."

With Desiderata's relocation to
 Edmonton, it looks like they've not
 only instituted a considerable
 change regarding the stature of indie
 rock in their hometown, but, thank-
 fully, they've also given Edmonton
 another great, young, and inspira-
 tional band to call its own.

EAMON MCGRATH

NEED A SCENE? START A SCENE.

AS EDMONTON BECOMES A LARGER DOT
 on Canada's indie rock radar, it's a sad fact
 that local bands who haven't necessarily
 bathed in the limelight of MacLean's articles
 and features in *The Globe and Mail* tend to
 get ignored and unjustly unappreciated by
 promoters, by the press, and by the entire
 scene in general. Cecil Frena, one half of
 Push-Pins Productions, and father of the
 upcoming Edmonton indie Unesco spec-
 tacle, seems to have noticed this, and he's
 taken the responsibility as a promoter to
 start making a change.

"There are preferred artists; people have
 friends, and they work with their friends,"
 says Frena. "I just wanted to have an
 opportunity to showcase bands that are

doing really, really good things—that we
 can hopefully move out of obscurity."

Frena makes it clear that he's not here to
 wage war on the more popular side of
 Edmonton's scene; he's got no bone to pick
 with the most successful of our musical
 young. Instead, he wants to level the play-
 ing field, and for the most part, expose peo-
 ple to bands that deserve to be heard.

"This show is sort of focused around
 what you'd call 'coustic indie rock'—crazy,
 chaotic music that's influenced by Orchiid,
 by the Blood Brothers, and other bands that
 have some sort of sonic affinity with them.
 I'm hoping to do other shows like this, focus
 on different genres. There are some world-
 class artists that get ignored in this town."

Full Moon shines blue

Australian sirens sure to lure an audience

THE BLUEHOUSE

Fri, Nov 24, Full Moon Folk Club (St. Basil's
 Cultural Centre, 10819-71 Ave.), 7 pm, Info:
 641-040 or www.fmc.org, \$17

EVERY WEEK YOU SEE IT: MORE AND
 more shows for the roots music
 crowd—cost-seat venues, stand-
 alone concerts, clubs... It seems
 everyone is getting into the act, and
 established, traditional folk clubs are
 finding it harder to make a go of it
 every season.

The Full Moon Folk Club, well
 into its 21st season, has been adjust-
 ing and rolling with the punches.
 According to Peter Pirquet, chief
 cook, bottle washer, and sometimes
 performer, "We had a near sell out
 with Kieran Kane and Kevin Welch
 and the rest of our shows have had
 pretty reasonable crowds. It is get-
 ting harder however—the audience
 is getting diffused and people have
 more and more decisions to make
 about where they will spend their
 entertainment dollars."

Folk clubs are, more than ever,
 in the position of bringing a
 wide range of styles along with
 familiar and not-so-familiar names.
 The Bluehouse is a quartet from
 Australia that has never played
 Edmonton and is virtually unknown
 these parts. Yet, that should not

deter anyone with an ear for harmo-
 ny, a love for lyrical humour and
 insight, and an attraction to toe-tap-
 ping, catchy melodies from taking
 their way to St. Basil's Cultural Centre
 Friday evening.

Jaqueline Walter, Bernadette Car-
 roll, and Samantha J. Harley are the
 creative force behind The Bluehouse.
 Their heavenly three-part harmonies
 showcase songs that explore rela-
 tionships, self-discovery and, per-
 haps, the secret to true happiness—
 as exemplified by "Let it Go," from
 the 2004 release *These Days* ("Figure
 out what matters most/Hold it tight
 then let it go/I've got no worries, got
 no doubts/One thing I've learned is
 to let it out and let it go...").

ROOTS-O-RAMA

■ Big Dave McLean, the Winnipeg-based bluesman inspired by meeting Muddy Waters in
 the '70s, has been a beacon of the true blues on the Prairies for over 30 years. Catch him
 through Saturday at the Blues on Whyte.

■ Festival Place presents a weekend of folk with multi-instrumentalist, singer, and songwriter
 Ian Tamblyn on Fri, Nov 24, while Glasgow's Battlefield Band, who have been on the road
 for over 30 years presenting traditional Celtic folk with their own unique twist, will rock the
 house on Sat, Nov 25

■ Northern Lights Folk Club presents acoustic blues with Come On In My Kitchen (led by
 Mark Sterling), Sat, Dec 2, at Queen Alexandra Hall

■ The ever popular—and usually sold out—Christmas Carol Project, featuring Bill Bourne,
 Maria Dunn, Terry Morrison, Tom Raschikov, and others (in an updated, folksy vision of the
 perennial Christmas favourite) plays the Roxy Theatre, Dec 19 to 23. Avoid disappointment
 and save a few bucks by getting your early-bird ticket before the end of November

Having released five discs to
 widespread critical acclaim, they've
 used their talent to groom a loyal fan
 base in Australia, appearing at most
 of the major festivals there.

Now, they're busy winning fans
 and followers around the world,
 making their way to main stages at
 the Kerrville, Philadelphia, Ann
 Arbor, and WOMAD Festivals. The
 Bluehouse also performed on Moun-
 tain Stage, the live radio broadcast
 originating in West Virginia that
 plays to an estimated 200 million
 people each week.

A perfect counterpart to the
 evening will be opening act Tim
 Hus. The Alberta-born Hus brings a
 songbook chock-full of tales about
 "bulldozers, buckin' horses, and
 bootleggers," delivered with charis-
 ma and energy by his Rocky Moun-
 tain Two—Rick Preston on lead gui-
 tar and Spider Bishop on bass.

CAM HAYDEN

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LIVE NATION

cd reviews



LOVE IS ALL
Nine Times That Same Song
(What's Your Rupture?)
★★★★☆

AFTER RELEASING A SLEW OF 7" SINGLES praised by both John Peel and Rough Trade's Sean Forbes, Scandinavian sensations Love Is All squeeze out their first full-length, *Nine Times That Same Song*. These Swedish Berries are all over the place in the best kind of way, with songs ranging from the blissful, Bowie-inspired "Make out till you make up" to the danceable no-wave of "Talk talk talk talk."

Playful fem-led vocals and a full-time sax player will draw immediate comparisons to X-Ray Spex, although these Gothenburg cuties are far more polished than their '70s predecessors. A rewarding listen, *Nine Times* is sweet, like making your kid sister laugh really hard at the dinner table. Like that first week of winter in Edmonton, before you realize that there's eight more months of frostbite ahead. Like having a new crush and all that other syrupy stuff. The album's deluxe edition offers a bonus disc of B-sides, but unless you really can't live without a cover of Yoko Ono's "Kiss Kiss Kiss," the extra four-song CD is inessential.

TRAVIS LACROIX



NEKO CASE
Live from Austin, TX
(New West/Austin City Limits)
★★★★☆

RECORDED IN 2003 AT WHAT WAS THEN THE peak of her career (a peak which, however, just seems to keep climbing), with a great supporting band and in front of a knowledgeable and attentive audience, this mercilessly-chopped-down-for-TV 45-minute set can only be criticized for its brevity.

Why they couldn't have just thrown the whole role of footage onto the \$20 DVD is beyond me, but we'll have to work with what the honourary-Canadian singer-songwriter gives us. That is, a smart and eclectic set list drawing heavily from 2002's *Blacklisted*, mixed with covers of contemporary artists' material and classics such as Bob Dylan's "Buckets of Rain," Hank Williams' "Alone and Forsaken," and a stirring rendition of "Wayfaring Stranger."

As for why *Austin City Limits* opted for the moving-picture version for this release instead of a plain old CD—well, it doesn't hurt that Case is fairly easy on the eyes—is questionable. But despite her frequent humble remarks to the contrary, there can be no doubt as to why Case made her way onto this Holy Grail of music-television in the first place: pure talent.

ADAM GAUMONT



BABY EAGLE
Baby Eagle
(Outside)
★★★★☆

BABY EAGLE HAS HATCHED WITH CITY-SUCKER honky-tonk on his lips, and as the solo-project of The Constantines' Steven Lambke, strays wholeheartedly from the hard and heavy sounds of his post-punk band.

The self-titled record comes with all the alt-country foibles, as the city boy melds urban tales of alleyways, factories, and airplanes with rural rhythms. The music remains simple and unrehearsed, and the record is deliciously under-produced. Lambke's voice unapologetically hits off-tune notes; basic guitar strums acting as the primary accompaniment.

The sparseness of the instrumentation doesn't dwarf the overall product, however, as Lambke knows when to add some more here and there, while shifting from sweet singing to howls and moans. There is something comforting and accessible about Baby Eagle, as if Lambke's backyard latch was lifted on each track and some of his friends, with instrument in hand, joined him around a fire pit to sing a song or two—and even the dog next door got air time.

SARAH HOYLES



CALIFONE
Roots & Crowns
(Thrill Jockey)
★★★★☆

NO BAND CAN CURRENTLY CLAIM THE uncharted, rugged territory that Califone effortlessly navigates. They're explorers, on the high seas, looking for the perfect land to call their own. If Erik the Red was a mid-American art-rockers instead of a Viking explorer at the start of the Common Era, he probably would have made music like this, if only for the sole purpose of going where nobody else had ever gone before.

Califone plugs a heavy duty noise element into their rootsy folk-rock, and they do so with an ease not heard since Wilco's testament, *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*; only with Califone, their label was their best friend instead of their mortal enemy, and the band trades Jeff Tweedy's lonesome prairie landscapes in for a dark, photographic view of perverted Americana.

The result is an album laced with tribal, ominous grooves ("Pink & Sour") which eventually give way to the best two tracks I've heard all year ("Our Kitten Sees Ghosts," "The Orchids") and by the conclusion of *Roots & Crowns*, you've already come to terms with the fact that nothing else quite measures up.

EAMON MCGRATH



RED RAM
Stars Abaze
(Independent)
★★★★☆

UNAPOLOGETIC IN ITS MISH-MASH approach, Red Ram's *Stars Abaze* jumbles and cross-cuts between '90s alternative, heavy metal, and electronica-drenched pop.

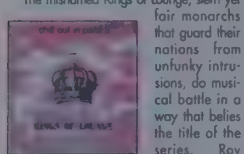
While Red Ram are certainly not reinventing the wheel, *Stars Abaze* manages to entertain and surprise at every turn with the opening cool of "Bad Bite" to the cynical nonsense of "Bird Fly" and the space-rock "Play The Game," "Sol," and "Star Abaze." Featuring some of Edmonton's best players—the Uncas' Mark Feduk at the helm alongside the multi-talented Doug Oring (bass), Scott Wiber, and turntablist/electronic wiz Cameron Sound, among many others—Red Ram is a hodge-podge of styles and influences that, surprisingly, never falls apart as it teeters on the edge. A feat, for sure, and a feast for the ears.

The only quibble one could have with *Stars Abaze* is a sound that could be a bit fuller—lacking a bit of a menacing undertone and playing a little too safe with a glossy finish that's a tad disappointing at times. But if you're looking for something original and pop to the core, you've got it right here.

FRANÇOIS MARCHAND

L: Local artist C: Canadian artist

Thursday: Various Artists, *Kings of Lounge - Chill Out in Paris 5*, Stefano Cecchi Records.



The misnamed *Kings of Lounge*, stem yet fair monarchs that guard their nations from unfunky intrusions, do musical battle in a way that belies the title of the series. Roy Ayers ("I Am Your Mind Pt 2") is anything but "lounge music"—he rules a nation committed to jazzy funk-soul—while the lover-man whispers of Boozoo Bajou ("Take It Slow") show a leader willing to do anything to look after the needs of his female subjects. Probably not a fair political analysis, but as a quick study the compilation sure beats Luther Vandross.

Friday: Alain Badard & Auguste Quintet, *Sphere Reflexion*, Effendi Records.



Like the title slyly suggests, pretty much a reverent homage to Thelonious Monk, by a Quebecois aficionado with his own record company—thumbs up for pulling it off without slavish imitation.
Saturday: Nanci Griffith, *Ruby's Torch*, Rounder.

The latter day torch singer route can be a perilous one—it's a lost skill in many ways, and most current singers can't interpret worth a damn on the classics. Griffith (normally a folk/country singer with impeccable taste) is

a hell of an interpreter, and an even more judicious song picker. Here she opts for the obscure ("When I Dream," "Bluer Than Blue") and a trio of cool early Tom Waits numbers ("Ruby's Arms," "Grapefruit Moon," and "Please Call Me, Baby"), absolutely killing on them, using muted orchestral backing and restrained vocals. When she finally tries her hand at a known quantity—"In the Wee Small Hours of the Morning"—she not only does it proud she comes close to cutting Sinatra at his own game, and that's no mean trick.
Sunday: Various Artists, *Transformers - The Movie OST*, Volcano Records.

It's pretty fitting that this movie, based on an '80s kid show kept alive by a loyal cult following, would also resumed the sounds of

pumping '80s rock in all its epic glory—a goldmine for those who believe Night Ranger was unjustly overlooked. And yes, the original theme song gets an inspiring semi-operatic, crotch-grabbing and guitar squealing redo by Lion. Great instrumentals as well—"Auto-bat/Deception Battle," "Death of Optimus Prime"—conveying the twin poles of terror and exhilaration that one would feel as these Homeric adversaries wage war against each other. Inspirational Verse for The Kiddies: "You can fly if you try leave the past behind." ("Dare")

Monday: Powu Up First, *Introducing New Details*, Dare To Core Records.
Instrumental rock of the dub and hip-hop variety—sort of Toriame meets Herboliser—with guest rappers Seba ("J'Garde Ca

Real"), Belle ("Big Freeze"), and D-Shade ("Mixed Blessings"). Excellent.

Tuesday: Europe, *Secret Society*, Sanctuary.

Dissatisfied with their place in sports anthem history ("The Final Countdown") the band that thinks it's a continent resurfaces for more slick arena-metal cum progressive rock that should have fists pumping somewhere, for some NBA or NHL event or another.
Wednesday: The Magic Numbers, *From The Brokes*, EMI.

The pop hooks are immaculate, the piano surres immediate—I especially like the bass line that jumps out of the end of the chorus in "Take a Chance"—and anything that can bring classic AM radio sound to FM radio is a-okay in my books.



Vanity

www.killvanity.com
www.myspace.com/killvanity



youth emergency shelter society fundraiser show and a silent auction featuring local artists.

★ Storyboard ★ Sleeping Girl ★ Woodpegon
★ hills like white elephants (self titled ep release show)
saturday december 2nd. muttart hall in alberta college campus
(10050 macdonald drive). Doors 6:00pm. show 7:00pm. all ages. \$10.

LIVE MUSIC

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR 10324-82 Ave.,
(Jasper) — Info: 436-4418.
BIG DOG 10425-82 Ave., 439-1082 — Sat
Eugene Roper
CHOCOLATE LOUNGE U of A campus 492-2048
EDMONTON EVENTS CENTRE WEM — Nov 28
Jellyfish Engage w/ Shadows Fall & Bury Your
Dears
MEGATONS 10355-82 Ave. — Info: 434-6342
NEW CITY 10081 Jasper Ave., Palladium Building,
425-CLUB — Thu Trash Bingo w/ DJ's Nazz
Harold & Band of Bees Fri Das Oantz w/ DJ
Dervish & The Groovinator Sun The Subatomic
w/ Michael Rault & the Mixed Signals, The
Burners, Pleasant & The Yacht Club Wed DIY
Wednesday w/ Blame-It, Beyond Addition &
guests
BLACK DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd., 439-

ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767
POWERPLANT U of A campus — The Murder City
Spawners w/ Drive By Punch & O Four What Fri
Tanya Polka Club w/ The Civil Twilight & The
Grates Sat Rachelle Van Zanten w/ Jody Baker,
Hannah Texas & Helene Arlot Wed Jolodope w/
The Hollow & guests Nov 30 That I Gay w/
guests
SPINRACK CAFE 10238-104 St., 421-1326 —
The Team Building w/ Hector Factor & Dustin
Cole Fri Chad VanGaelen CD release w/ These
Horns & Lane Arrish Sat The B Band Sun d
diversion & The Comedy Factory Show w/ Jane
Lau Tue Guy Van Wed Wacousta w/ Twilight
After: A Foods Tongue
STARLINE ROOM 10030-102 St., 428-1099 — Fri
The Philosophers Kings w/ Jon Levine Band Sat
The Deers w/ Bloodlines Nov 30 Wintersleep
w/ Val Helen
VELVE underground 10030-102 St., 428-
7127 — The VRMS WCM Sat Fraq Nasty
Bike w/ Roots Sound System, DJ Sweets &
Agent Orange Tue The British Invasion Tuesdays
Wed various Wednesdays
VONDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS 8120-101 St. Info:
436-2986

BLUES & ROOTS

ACQUIRED TASTE TEA CO. 12323-102 Ave., 414-
6041 — Nov 23 Andrea House.
BUND PIG 321 Anne St., St. Albert, 418-6332 —
Sat Mule Lucky
BLUE CHAIR CAFE 9624-76 Ave., 989-2861 —
The Dave Wright Fri Althea Cunningham Sat A
Christmas w/ John D. Huston Sun Brunch
w/ Thomas Mead
BLUES ON WHITE 10329-82 Ave., 439-5058 —
The Sat Mike Sun The Hardline Blues Band
w/ The River City Horns Mon-Wed Stephyale
CATERLOP ROOM 507 St. Albert Trail — Fri Slow-
down
CROWN & ANCHOR 15227 Castledowns Rd. —
Fri The Hardline Blues Band.
DISTERS PUB 5422-118 Ave. — Info: 474-0997
FINISH START CAFE 484 Riverbend Square, 438-
6410 — Fri Jim & Gail Hapler Sat Prairie Cats
VIEWFIRE BAR & GRILL 1107 Knowlton Rd 440-
1063 — Every Mon N. Gary Thomas & guests.
O'SYRIS IRISH PUB 10616-82 Ave., 414-6766

HOT SHOWS

NOV 24 — The Philosophers Kings Starline Room,
436-4418 w/ guests
NOV 25 — The Deers & The Kings 10030-102
St. Telles, 520 St. M. Meguitas, Blackdog,
FreeCloud & FS (WEM)
NOV 25 — Rachelle Van Zanten Powerplant, U
of A campus w/ guests
NOV 26 — Sarah Sloan Horowitz Theatre, SU
w/ The Deers & The Kings w/ guests. Tickets
from \$10. Backyard Listen, Meguitas &
The Kings
NOV 26 — Xavier Boudl Winnipeg Centre, Sir
Winston Churchill Square w/ Nasty
Bike w/ tickets at the Winnipeg bar office
436-4418
NOV 26 — Killwitch Engage Edmonton Events
The Formerly Red w/ WEM w/ Shadows
Fall & Bury Your Dears Tickets, \$27 at TM,
Backyard Listen, FS Skateboards &
FreeCloud

TICKETS LEGEND

ARO — Arden Theatre, 5 St. Anne Street, St. Albert, (780) 459-1542, boxoffice@st-albert.net, ardenttheatre.com • **CT** — Citadel Theatre, 9828-101A Ave.,
425-1820, 1-888-425-1820, citadeltheatre.com • **HOR** — Horizon Stage, 315 Jasper Ave., Spruce Grove, 962-8995, horizonstage.com • **TX** — Tix on
the Square, 9930-102 Ave., 420-1757, 1-877-888-1757, tixonthesquare.ca • **TM** — Ticket Master, 451-8000, ticketmaster.ca

— The Slowburn
O'CONNOR'S IRISH PUB 9013-88 Ave., 465-4834
— Nov 24-25 Party Amico & Brian Gregg
WHISTLE STOP LOUNGE 12416-132 Ave. — Info:
451-5506
XWRECKS 10143-50 St., 466-8069

JAZZ

FOUR ROOMS 137 Edm City Centre East, 426-
4767 — The John Taylor Fri Harpe Jazz Trio
Sat Mobius
HULBERT'S 7601-115 St., 436-1161 — Wed Web
bly Wednesday w/ dj frederick. Info: www.hul
berts.ca
JEFFREYS CAFE 9640-142 St., 451-8890 — Fri
June Mann Quartet Sat Dave Bobcock
LA TABLE DE RENAISSANCE 10046-101A Ave. — Info:
429-3386
MANDOLIN BOOKS 6419-112 Ave., 479-4050
RIVERSIDE BAR & GRILL 367 St. Albert Trail, 460-
1122 — Every Sun The Bad Arm
YARDWARD SUITE 10203-86 Ave., 432-0428 — Fri
Flora Ware Sat The Manic Theatrical Trio
ZENARI'S 10180-101 St. — Info: 423-5409

POP & ROCK

BACKDRAUGHT PUB 8307-99 St. — Info: 430-
9200
CASINO EDMONTON 7055 Argyle Rd., 463-9467
— Fri & Sat Manhattan
CASINO YELLOWHEAD 12464-153 St., 424-9467
— Fri & Sat Catalyst
COWBOYS COUNTRY SALOON 10180-180 St. —
Info: 481-3739
HOMEGROWN SOUL SHACK 8102-1024-82
Ave., 989-7009 — Every Sat, 5 pm, live music.
JEKYL & HYDE PUB 10160-100 Ave., 426-5381
— Every Fri, Sat Sat Headwind
J.J.'S PUB 11827 St. Albert Trail, 489-7462
KINGSKNIGHT PUB 9221-34 Ave., 433-2599
RENDEZVOUS 10108-149 St., 444-1822 — Fri
The Martin Kerr Band Sat Beyond the Addiction,
Betty Macdette & The Burnin' Sounds
SECOND CUP Gateway Plaza, 10310-34 Ave. —
Mon Carrie Hymn & Alex Boudreau
THE MANTIN KERR BAND Sat Beyond the Addiction,
Betty Macdette & The Burnin' Sounds
THREE HELMETS AND A TAP Fri Sat Connors
Road Wed Jets to Theory w/ My Sister Ocean &
The Wheelmen Nov 30 Sonic band of the
Month Red Rom

PUB MUSIC

ALEXANDERS LOUNGE Chateau Nova Hotel, 159
Airport Rd. — Every Fri & Sat Eric Miller
ATLANTIC TRAP & GRILL 7704-104 St., 432-4611
— The Tim Rutter Fri-Sat 3 Drops of the Pure
Sun Diamond Band & Trio Wed Duff
BUD'S LOUNGE Londonderry Mall 66 St. & 137
Ave. — Every Thu 9pm Jam nite Every Sat 9pm
live entertainment
CELL'S IRISH PUB 10338-109 St., 426-5555 —
Every Mon Student Nights w/ Captain Tractor
Every Fri kick it bro's Every Sat Jamoke
CROWN & ANCHOR 15227-113 St. — Info: 472-
7696
DUKE OF ARGYLE 7230 Argyle Rd. — Info: 465-
7931
ELPHANT & CASTLE ON WHITE 10314-82 Ave.
439-4545
THE NEW TAPHOUSE 9020 McKinney Ave., St
Albert — Info: 458-0860
**O'BRYEN'S IRISH
PUB** 10616-82 Ave., 414-6766 — The Slow-
burn Mon DJ Angus Tue Irish jam session w/
Shannon Johnson & Irish dancers Wed Chris
Winters of Captain Tractor & guests
SHERLOCK HOLMES Bourbon Street, WEM — Thu
Sat Tim Collins
SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall — Thu-Sat Dor-
rick Sigurdson
SHERLOCK HOLMES Rice Howard Way — Thu-Sat
Cal Collette
THE DRUID 11606 Jasper Ave. — Info: 454-9928
THE DRUID SOUTH 2940 Calgary Trail — Info:
465-6800

DANCE CLUBS

ALTERNATIVE

BACKROOM VODKA BAR 10324-82 Ave.,
(upstairs), 436-4418 — Mon Local Motive -
House, progressive, techno w/ guests Wed Soul

ful Deep House w/ DJ's Smooch & Nic E Fri All
Out Fridays w/ Shortround, Echo & Sweets
mash-ups and dancehall rhythms Sat Flora - hip
hop w/ Shortround, Echo & guests Sun Moca
light Cinema 9 pm - Simpsons, a movie & DJ
BOOTS 10242-106 St., 423-5014 — Open 7
days/week Happy Hour 3 to 8 pm Fri Retn:
Disco Sat Flashback Saturdays w/ DJ's Derrick &
Manny Molate, Mike Spiller, 11 pm
BUDDY'S NIGHT CLUB 11728 Jasper Ave., 488-
7736 — Open Nightly 9-3 Sun Rotating drag
shows in The Stardust Lounge w/ Ma Bianca &
Mz Vanity Fair, GoDiva & Donatella NE1 in the
GoDiva Show, DJ West Coast Baby/Daddy Mon
Amateur Strip Contest w/ Mia Fellow & DJ West
Coast Baby/Daddy Tue Free pool & tournament
DJ Arrowchaser Wed Hung Day w/ DJ Sassy
Sean Thu Wed Undies contest w/ Mia Fellow &
DJ West Coast Baby/Daddy Fri DJ Eddy Toonflash
Dance Party, no cover before 10 pm Sat Undie
Night (men only) free pool & tournament, DJ
Arrowchaser

DANTE'S BISTROT 17328 Stoney Plain Road, 486-
4448 — Fri Frid Fridays test messaging singles
party Sat DJ Johnny Sky Info: www.dantes
bistro.com
DECADENCE 10018-105 St. — Sat Soul Heaven
Saturdays w/ T-boss & Femme Funk First and
last Saturday of the month for event info call
490-1792 or www.slowravepage.com
DEVIL'S 10507-82 Ave., 437-7489 — Happy
hour until 7 pm every night
DEWEY'S Powerplant (U of A) — Every Mon Mar
gins of Sounds w/ Boggy and Pote-1, chills
beats, dub reggae, hip hop
FILTHY MCNASTY'S 10511-82 Ave. (upstairs), 437-
7489 — Happy Hour Every Day 5-9 pm Mon
Metal Mondays Tue Twisted Trivia Wed Bar star
college night Thu Punk Rock Bingo Fri Sat
Ski's Yeti Asa Weekend w/ DJ Serial K (dance,
alt, rock, retro) Sun Industry night, half price
everything
HALO 10338 Jasper Ave., 423-4256 — Fri The
Mod Club - Soul, R&B, indie, Brit pop, new
wave, reggae & classic punk w/ DJ Blue Jay &
Travy D Set For Those Who Know - deep house
w/ Junior Brown, Remo, Waylon Sherrington &
Luke Morrison
JAX'S 12315-118 Ave., 448-3650 — Fri Whorda
Funk w/ DJ Resident Funk & Matt Hatter, house
drum 'n' bass Sat DJ Nostalgia & guests, house
hardhouse, trance NC Sun Free pool all day,
freestyle put your name down
NEW CITY UKWILD LOUNGE 10081 Jasper Ave.,
429-CLUB — Mon Mike it's Indie Mondays
Wed 80s Funk & 80s Metal Night Thu Ribs a
Dub w/ Jebus & his Apostles Fri Your Weekly
Candy w/ Adam & Jebus Sat New & Used
Candy w/ Texas Chonsway Mascara & Naz
Nomad
NEW CITY SUBURBS 10081 Jasper Ave., 429-CLUB
— The Bingo Trashhouse Thursdays w/ Texas
Chonsway Mascara & Naz Nomad Fri Live
Events Night Sat Saturday Sucks w/ Niki
Rondey & Blue Jay Wed DIY Wednesdays, 4
originals
NIKKI DIAMONDS 8130 Gateway Blvd., down-
stairs, 439-8006 — Wed Punk Night Wednes-
days
ON THE ROCKS 11740 Jasper Ave., 482-4767 —
Fri-Sat Live music Thu Salsa in the City, dance
lessons & Cuban Salsa Fri
PRISM BAR & GRILL 10524-101 St., 990-0038 —
Wed Wings Thu Sports trivia. Call for upcoming
events
SAVOY BAR 10401-82 Ave. — Wed Sabor: Latin
music w/ Canzi Fri Bala, transcontinental indie
trash w/ Flyboy Sat Wanderlust: boletic beats
w/ Ben Hot Sun Mondo Electroa, 60s trash w/
DJ Dan Electroa
STARLINE ROOM 10030-102 St. — Fri Cherry Fri
days w/ DJ Jason LP
TANTRIA 10147 Saskatchewan Dr., 434-8699
Mon - Thu & Sun 5 pm - Midnight, Fri & Sat 5
pm - 2 am (Dancing 10 pm - 2 am)
THA BASSMENT INC. 12520-118 Ave., 488-7103
— Hip-hop, R&B, & Top 40 Music. All ages
dance club every Fri & Sat
THE ATIK 10407-82 Ave., 433-1959 — Wed Hi-
ball Night Thu Student Nite
THE ELEPHANT & CASTLE WHITE AVE 10314-82
Ave., 439-4545 — Thu Sleeman Method Thurs-
days - DJ Headspin, down-tempo & eclectic hip
hop. www.eandcwhite.com
THE ROOST 10345-104 St., 426-3130 — Thu Gor-
geous Hostess Dr. Lou Linton, drag kings &
queens, burlesque & rotating hosts All request
dance party w/ DJ Jazzy Sat Monthly
theme parties, DJ Jazzy upstairs (new music), DJ
Don & Mike downstairs (retro music) Sun Fabu-
lous drag show every Sunday w/ Hostess Connie
Lingo & the Gay Game Show Hours: Sun &
Thu, 8 pm - 3 am, Fri & Sat, 8 pm - 4 am, closed
Mon-Wed. Info: www.theroostclub.com

EIGHT DAYS A WEEK

PICK OF THE WEEK



MILE ZERO DANCE "THE CUBE" FREEMASONS HALL

Mile Zero Dances opens their main stage season with a dark, edgy insight into humanity's more sinister urges. This collaborative work explores lust, isolation, greed, and voyeurism through intricately choreographed group body work and multimedia. Nov 24 & 25 (10318-100 Ave.)

VOICES FOR HOSPE WINSPEAR CENTRE

Silent auction & variety concert in support of Pilgrim's Hospice, featuring Ann Vriend, Celtic Fusion Illusion, Isokan Alkali, Kupallo, Thom Golub & Dan Skakun, Harpe Jazz & Apocalypse Kaw

CANTERBURY T.A.L.E.S. WESTWOOD UNITARIAN CHURCH

TALES members and Edmonton's Recorder Society join for some medieval fashioned storytelling to a Chaucer, performing selections from the 14th century opus. (11135-65 Ave.)

OPEN HOUSE SELFDRIDGE POTTERY STUDIO

For the next two weekends, the Selfridge family hosts their annual open studio, displaying an array of rare and delicate porcelain and wood fired pottery. (19844-88 Ave.)

JINGLE ON DOWNTOWN & CHURCHILL SQUARE

Yuletide cheer his E-town, commencing with the Santa Claus parade at 10 am, followed by a Winter Carnival in the Square, topped off with the Holiday Light-Up at 5 pm. All FREE!

HUNGARY: 50 YEARS AFTER 1956 METRO CINEMA

On weekend of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising, Metro screens four differently stylized films that examine Hungary's watershed year modern history. (Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre)

PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS, CORPORATIONS HAVE RESPONSIBILITIES CAB 239 - U OF A CAMPUS

Business Ethics & Amnesty International panelists discuss the weighty role of corporations in the battlefield for human rights, from conflict diamonds to sweatshop labour.

RIDING WITH RILKE: REFLECTIONS ON MOTORCYCLES & BOOKS UPPER-CRIST CAFE

Winner of the 2006 Edmonton Book Prize & the Wilfred Eggleston Award, author Ted Bishop will provide a candid lecture on cross country travel, and the art of book tours. (10609-86 Ave.)

CRIMES OF THE HEART STUDIO THEATRE

Beth Hanley's Pulitzer Prize winning play about three Mississippi sisters who converge at Old Granddaddy's house after the youngest has shot her husband. She didn't like his looks. (Timms Centre)

NEXT THURSDAY 30

GIGS AT A GLANCE

THURSDAY 23

City DJs - Dazz Nazz and Beard of Bees; **POWERPLAY** - Murder City Sparrows w/ Drive By Punch & O Four What; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - Team Building w/ Hector Factor & Dustin Cole; **VELVET UNDERGROUND** - NIRMAL WILSON; **ACQUIRED TASTE TEA CO.** - Andrea Howe; **BLUE CHAIR CAFE** - Dave Wright; **BLUES ON WHITE** - Little Mike; **O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB** - Slowburn; **FOUR ROOMS** - John Taylor; **URBAN LOUNGE** - These Helms and a Taper; **ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL** - Tim Rutter; **O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB** - Slowburn; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall** - Tim Cotton; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall** - Derrick Sigurdson; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Rice Howard Way** - Cal Collette.

FRIDAY 24

NEW CITY - Das Ozeit w/ DJ Dervish & The Groovinator; **POWERPLAY** - Plant - Tokyo Police Club w/ This Civil Twilight & The Grates; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - Chad VanGoolen CD release w/ These Helms and Lane Arndt; **STARBUCKS** - The Philosopher Kings w/ Jan Levine band; **BLUE CHAIR CAFE** - Africa Cunningham; **BLUES ON WHITE** - Little Mike; **CASTLE ROCK PUB** - Slowburn; **CROWN & ANCHOR** - The Hardline Blues Band; **FRESH START CAFE** - Jim & Gail Hepler; **O'CONNOR'S IRISH PUB** - Patsy Amico & Brian Greig; **FOUR ROOMS** - Harpe Jazz Trio; **JEFFREYS CAFE** - June Mann Quartet; **YARDBIRD SUITE** - Flora Wren; **CASINO EDMONTON** - Manhattan; **CASINO YELLOWHEAD** - Catalyst; **JEVIL & HYDE PUB** - Headwind; **RENDING** - The Martin Kerin Bands; **URBAN LOUNGE** - Connors; **RAK** - Alexanders Lounge - Eric Hillier; **ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL** - Tim Cotton; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall** - Derrick Sigurdson; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Rice Howard Way** - Cal Collette.

SATURDAY 25

BLACK DOG - Eugene Ripper; **POWERPLAY** - Rachelle Van Zanten w/ Johnny Baker; **Harmon Tease & Helene Arlois**; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - The X Band; **STARBUCKS** - The Deans w/ Bloodlines; **VELVET UNDERGROUND** - Freq Nasty (UK) w/ Roots Sound System; **DJ**

Twilight Afterhours 10018-105 St. - Fri Flashback house/hard w/ Johnny Dangous, Andy Inertia w/ guests Sat hard NRG/ironic/funk w/ Jeff Hills, Sig, Big Dog, DTR, Twink! **Union Hall** 4991 & 99th, 702-0318 - The Hi-ball specials Fri Ladies Night 7 PM - A Saturday **VELVET UNDERGROUND** 10030-102 St. - Tue Teamwork Tuesdays - Punk Rock Wed Lunches Wednesdays w/ The JBos Thu NIRMAL WILSON w/ DJ Nik 7 Sun Where It's At Sundays w/ DJ Sweetz, Propo & 2 Live **WUNDERBAR HOFBRAUHAUS** 8120 - 101 St. - Sat 6-12 PM - Tue House w/er W/er Round One last DJ Tonia & Amador Brown Thu In & Out last DJ Paul & Frank Fri Sat Local DJs & bands Sun DJ Regan & co. w/ trance, dance & rare styles **Y AFTERHOURS** 10028-102 St. (alley entrance) Fri Foundation Fridays - hard house/garage/breaks w/ Nic-E, Bryan Wade, Simon B, Drew, Dargner, Nelson Delano, Tourist to, Johnny Dangous, Trance 1 Sat Release Sat Fridays - funky/electro/hard house/techno w/ Luke Marston, Tony Donohue, Erin Eden, Dana von, Tony P, Mark Tryptomene, Brian Doyle, Derkin, Ims Materson

TOP 40

180° RESTAURANT & NIGHTCLUB 10730-107 Ave., 414-0233 - Every Thu Hip Hop & open mic Fri Sexy Friday Every Sat Dance Hall reggae night by Generation II Vexx & DJ Poochie w/ G-Unit **BAR NOME** 10545-82 Ave., 432-5058 - Dance specials all night Fri Sat **BEARLUB CLUB** 200, 10505-82 Ave., 432-0335 - The Tonite Thursdays, Live DJ, drink specials **BUND DOG** 10616-118 Ave., 479-7193 - Wed Fri Sat Grand Master Rich Carr **CLACK SELECT** 10018-108 St., 429-1629 - Fri DJ Socks & Tryptomene **CALENTIE NIGHT CLUB** 10815 Jasper Ave., 425-0850 - The Urban Substance Ladies Night w/ Urban Substance Sound featuring DJ InVincible, ShortRound, Echo, SpinCycle, BabyGirl & Touch! Fri Fun Fridays w/ DJ InVincible, Bomb Squad, Weapon X & Baby Girl Sat Soul-Of Saturdays Sun Ladies Night w/ DJ InVincible, Wed Old School w/ DJ Shokone, DJ Sin & DJ Intigute, Tue Basement Tapes dance reggae night w/ Bomb Squad, Q.B., Chrome Nine & weekly guest **CELI'S BISH PUB** 10338-109 St., 426-5555 - Mon Get Your Groove On w/ Weezer Fri Circo De Mayo Sat Various Functions, Wed Hat Wheels **CHASE NIGHTCLUB** 10345 105 St., 969-6969 - Tue Colypso & Latin dance Fri Status Friday, R&B, hip hop & reggae **CINEMAX** 8318-144 Ave., 478-1770 - Sat Ladies Night 10 PM On w/ Top Sunny hour all day, Free **CLAREVIEW PUB** 132 Ave. & Victoria Tr., 414-1111 - Tue & Thu Karaoke Wed, er & DJ Fero Sun DJ Fero plays today's hottest hits & yesterday's classics NC ever! **CRISTAL LOUNGE** 10336 Jasper Ave., 426-7521

Sweetz & Agent Orange; **BUND PG** - Mister Lucky; **BLUE CHAIR CAFE** - A Christmas Carol w/ DJ Hutton; **BLUES ON WHITE** - Little Mike, CROWN & ANCHOR - The Hardline Blues Band; **FRESH START CAFE** - Prairie Circle; **O'CONNOR'S IRISH PUB** - Patsy Amico & Brian Greig; **FOUR ROOMS** - Mobius; **JEFFREYS CAFE** - Dave Boback; **YARDBIRD SUITE** - The Main; **Thematic Trio**; **CASINO EDMONTON** - Manhattan; **CASINO YELLOWHEAD** - Catalyst; **JEVIL & HYDE PUB** - Headwind; **RENDING** - Beyond the Adoration; **Betty Macfarte**; **The Burnin' Sons**; **URBAN LOUNGE** - Connors; **RAK** - Alexanders Lounge - Eric Hillier; **ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL** - 3 Drops of the Pure; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall** - Tim Cotton; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Capilano Mall** - Derrick Sigurdson; **SHERLOCK HOLMES Rice Howard Way** - Cal Collette.

SUNDAY 26

NEW CITY - The Subatomic w/ Michael Rault & the Mixed Signals, The Burners, Pleasant & The Yacht Club; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - dj duke-man & The Comedy Factory show w/ Love Junk; **RIVERSIDE B&B & GRILL** - The Red Anky; **BLUE CHAIR CAFE** - Brunch w/ Thomas Mead; **BLUES ON WHITE** - The Hardline Blues Band w/ The River City Horns; **ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL** - Diamond Bob Trio.

MONDAY 27

BLUES ON WHITE - Stephyline; **LIVEMORE BAR & GRILL** - N. Gary Thomas & guests; **SECOND CUP Gateway Plaza** - Carrie Hymy & Alex Boudreau; **O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB** - DJ Angus.

TUESDAY 28

EDMONTON EVENTS CENTRE WEM - Kilwinich Engage w/ Showdown Fall & Bury Your Dead; **POWERPLAY** - Jalokape w/ The Hollar & guests; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - Jax Vox; **BLUES ON WHITE** - Stephyline; **O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB** - Irish jam session w/ Shannon Johnson.

WEDNESDAY 29

NEW CITY - DIY Wednesday w/ Blame-it, Beyond Addition & guests; **SIDETRACK CAFE** - Wacoastu w/ Twilight Hall & Fools Tongue; **BLUES ON WHITE** - Stephyline; **LIVEMORE BAR & GRILL** - Wednesday w/ DJ Frederic; **URBAN LOUNGE** - Jelts to Theory w/ My Sister Ocean & The Whetmoons; **ATLANTIC TRAP & GILL** - Duff; **O'BRYEN'S IRISH PUB** - Chris Wymers.

COOL atmosphere, the newest club on the block. **RACK** - EN BILLYARDS Urban Saturdays - R&B, hip hop, reggae, soul w/ DJ InVincible & MCJ. Money, \$8. **ELEVATION LOUNGE** 10309-81 Ave. (upstairs), 432-4977 - DJ 4Play playing the best of Top 40 & retro music all week long Wed Guest bartenders, The Solo Night, 8 PM Wed **ESCAPE ULTRA LOUNGE** WEM, 489-1330 - Wed Wild On Wednesdays, Ladies Night Fri Fahrenheit Fridays Sat Saturday Night House Party w/ Urban Melodys Set! Jin the emcee live in concert! info: www.escapeultralounge.com **FEVER** West Edmonton Mall Saturday 3 - Wed Industry Night Fri DJ Shocker Sat Saturday Night Fever! info: www.fevernightclub.com **FLUID LOUNGE** Jasper & 109 St., 906-7939 - Sat DJ Jon John **FUNKY BUDDHA** 10341-82 Ave. - Tue Cool Latin Tuesdays, dance lessons at 8 PM **GALLERY** 10615-109 Ave., 432-4061 - The Rock n Roll Trivia Fri & Sat DJ Rory **GAS PUB** 10166-114 St., 488-4841 - Fri & Sat dance music by DJ Chrison Sun Open most week long weekend. Dance music by DJ Trovns. Mandatory cover check/dress code/no cover charge **GIORGIO SKI LOUNGE** 11505-118 Ave. - Every Thu Urban Substance Thursdays w/ Urban Substance Sound Crew! info: www.giorgio.com **GLOBE TAP BAR & GRILL** 10045-109 St., 426-7111 - Fri & Sat Top 40 w/ dancing Sun Industry night **H2O SPORTS BAR & LOUNGE** 10044-82 Ave., 432-5794 - Tue & Thu Sat Sun Karaoke DJ Double Jack plays the best in dance, rock & pop **IRON HORSE** 8101-103 St., 438-1907 - Fri DJ Loose Cannon Sat Urban dance party w/ DJ 933 **KELLY'S** 11540 Jasper Ave., 451-8825 - Mon Fri 10 PM Karaoke w/ Sun Karaoke Happy Hour 11 am - 7 pm daily **KINGSWING PUB** 9221-34 Ave., 432-2599 - The Live music, karaoke w/ Smirking Jay in the Venue Fri Ladies Night in the Venue w/ male dancers 8 pm, karaoke 11 pm, live band 10 pm in the Kingswing Sat Karaoke in the Venue 9 PM live bands 10 PM in the Kingswing **LIVEMORE BAR** 163 Knottwood Rd., 440-1063 - The Sat DJ Dave Sun Karaoke **METRO** 10250-108 St. - Wed Thu & Sat, info 990-0704 **NEWCASTLE PUB & GRILL** 6108-90 Ave., 490-1999 - Fri Live Music Sat Ladies Night & Live **NICKI DIAMONDS** 8130 Gateway Blvd., downtown, 439-8006 - Fri & Sat DJ w/ Dancing, Top 40 & requests **OVERTIME BROILER & TAPROOM** 10034-111 St., 423-1641 - The Extreme Thursdays feature cheap drinks & cool music **PEPPER'S** 11845 Wayne Gratzky Dr., 471-1231 - Fri Top 40, 90s & rock n' roll, ladies specials, cool atmosphere, the newest club on the block. **RACK** - EN BILLYARDS Urban Saturdays - R&B, hip hop, reggae, soul w/ DJ InVincible & MCJ. 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Bloodletting and miraculous publishing

This year's Giller nominees were a mixed bag



PAGING DR. LAM
Ontario doc and first-time author takes home the Giller

BLOODLETTING AND MIRACULOUS CURES
By Vincent Lam
Random House of Canada, 368 pp., \$29.95

GOVERNOR OF THE NORTHERN PROVINCE
By Randy Boyagoda
Penguin Canada, 208 pp., \$32.00

WHEN VINCENT LAM WON THE GILLER Prize a couple of weeks ago for his first fiction collection, *Bloodletting and Miraculous Cures*, more than a few industry gossips expressed their shock at the selection.

The 12 interlinked stories follow the careers of a handful of medical doctors, from their acceptance into med school onwards, and the book is strikingly unique when set against the stacks of psychological-realist,

emotion-driven drivel publishers turn out each year.

Doctors Ming, Fitzgerald, Chen and Sri encounter all the workaholic pressures and blood-soaked horrors that doctors, we presume, must encounter in real life.

The opening stories, depicting the strict work ethic those who strive for medical school must have, establish the bizarre emotional vacuum that is the cost of success.

For instance, in university, Ming has a fool-proof study method that she's obtained from her cousin, who is several years ahead in his medical ambitions. She had a furtive sexual relationship with him, and then passes the study tips along to her next lover, Fitzgerald, after he fails to get into school on his first try. Of course, this second relationship ends

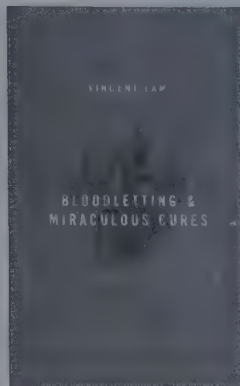
once Ming is in and Fitz isn't.

It's an economical account of the personal sacrifices these uber-keen-ers make. The emotional is only a valid impulse when it furthers one's work. This repression of one's humanity weaves through the collection. One doctor drinks, another defies hospital protocol and breaks through the glass encasing a quarantined patient to help.

Though Lam had the improbable luck of luring Random House in as a publisher, critics have pointed out that Lam's voice wasn't sufficiently literary (read "purple" here) to win the Giller, and that *Bloodletting* hasn't really accomplished anything that *ER* or *Grey's Anatomy* couldn't do. Plus, emergency rooms are inherently dramatic places—Lam didn't have to work at narrative, he had his

ready-made

We admit that maybe Lam wasn't ready to win the Giller. Truly, his prose is not particularly adept. Consider his description of a character's response to a suicidal schizophrenic: "Adrienne's expression is completely unchanged—the way that someone who is really shocked often



does not have it within their repertoire to actually twist even the smallest facial muscle, or is it the way that someone who is not surprised is simply not surprised?"

Note the clinical vocabulary. Note the functionality of the words: Lam does not play with language, he employs it. Three strikes against his Can-litrey stardom.

Yet one must highlight the narrative subtlety that the man possesses. Alice Munro, one of the Giller judges and arguably the best short story technician ever, must have picked up on the brilliant structural condensation Lam demonstrates. (Remember, the book spans 20 or so years.)

Lam zooms in on a particularly intense moment, withdraws, and then portrays the aftermath. When characters die, as they are bound to do in medical drama, Lam is artful: sometimes, he eclipses the termination, others, he skips the disease and focuses on the end. If the human life cycle is a narrative trajectory, then Lam's work as a real-life medical doctor has taught the man quite a bit

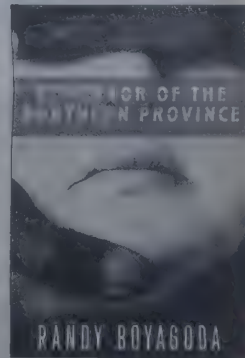
about how to tell a story.

Randy Boyagoda's *Governor of the Northern Province* is another title that was nominated for this year's Giller Prize, although his book didn't make it past the 15-title longlist.

And for good reason. Beyond the appeal of including a title that starred a former African warlord-cum-Canadian-refugee, why the book even made it to the longlist at all is mysterious.

The adventures of Bokarie, who fleeing his criminal past in the imaginary African country Atwenty for a new life in small town Canada, is a great premise. Shortly after arriving in the Ottawa Valley, he is adopted into the affections of "the town's clumsy political hopeful" the ugly, heavyset Jennifer Tickson. She represents Canada's soppy-hearted liberal tendencies.

Complications ensue. Although Boyagoda has the wacky ideas and the witty style of political satire, he has failed to construct a narrative that draws the reader in. As his first novel, *Governor* displays typical errors: too many characters are given too much air



time, and, as a result, the plot meanders into the back stories of individuals about whom we know too much but, curiously, care too little.

It's tough sloggng that never achieves the satirical vitality required to defuse the entirely disturbing cover image.

JAY SMITH

RE:READING

JAY SMITH

MS. REISMAN, ARE YOU LISTENING? HERE'S ONE REASON TO QUIT THIS BOOM town and head east. Despite one-offs from Lucien Bouchard that Québécois need to snap being so "lazy" and work more, Québec's culture is thriving in ways we Westerners, amidst our economic glory, can barely imagine.

Specifically, major big-box bookstores in Québec province have agreed to some substantial changes that will help out Québécois

literature. Numerous Renaud-Bray and Archambault retailers (both are major chains in Québec) will stock all the literary titles published by French-Canadian publishers, and will stock new homegrown literature for a minimum of 11 months (the *Chapters/Indigo* chains, in contrast, will return unsold books in 90 days).

Gaston Bellemare, president of l'Association nationale des éditeurs de livres (ANEL), explains the obvious: "You can't sell books when they're not in stores."

ANAL

TO CELEBRATE THE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF RE:READING's existence, we thought we'd share with you a handful of the errors that have snuck into our 40 or 50-something columns. Because we sometimes wonder if "you" is merely a rhetorical device, we

always enjoy receiving mail, even those pointing out how our writing is sometimes just plain wrong.

Amidst the media blitz afforded to Todd Babiak's second novel, *The Gameau Block*, an anonymous reader pointed out that the publisher's information, duly and uncritically reproduced in our review of the book, was incorrect in stating Babiak's was the first serialized novel in Canada. Stephen Leacock's *Sunshine Sketches of a Little Town*, a satire about life in the imaginary community of Mariposa, Ontario, was originally published in serial form in 1912. Perhaps there was another even before Leacock; please write in to say. Meanwhile, we should all take this as an opportunity to read some Leacock. Historical amnesia is not cool.

Ashleigh Brown, interviewed about her collective of artistically-inclined parents, talks

very quickly. She believes that both parenting and art require a lot of "love." We misquoted her saying "passion." Prompted by her clarifications, we now understand that passion is always a bit self-centred, whereas love—especially in the context of art and childrearing—is less so. Like, love makes the world go around. Of course, that may be a misinterpretation, too.

Oh what a difference a comma makes! In our article on the *Anarchist Bookfair*, Sean Boomer pointed out that when we said that "Anarchism... does not equal violent, anti-state activity" we implied that not all anarchists are against the state. Not true! All anarchists are engaged in anti-state activity, it's just not always violent.

READINGS & LECTURES
TONIGHT, HEAD DOWN TO AUDREY'S BOOKS

to hear Morningstar Mercardi read from her new book, *Morningstar: A Warrior's Spirit*. Mercardi is storyteller and social activist, and tells of her victory over abuse, poverty, and discrimination. She reads at 7:30 pm.

This Wednesday, head down to the Upper Crust (10909 - 86 Ave) at 7:30 pm to hear Edmonton's own Ted Bishop deliver a lively lecture on the business of book promotion. If you remember, his *Riding with Rilke: Reflections on Motorcycles and Books* was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award last year, and won the MAX award (Motorcycle Awards of Excellence) for being the best motorcycle book of 2006. So he has a few tales to tell of the adventures an adventurous author faces following a book's publication.

Please drop us a line. The library can be a lonely place. reading@see.greatwest.ca

food and drink

Striking out at Louie's

Reviewer's quest for new menu no walk in the park



PACKRAT LOUIE KITCHEN & BAR
10335-83 Ave., ★★★★★

LET ME SAY RIGHT AWAY THAT I WENT to Packrat Louie for lunch. It was lunch, not dinner (unless you're reading this in parts of Saskatchewan where dinner means lunch, but I mean lunch, not supper). So we're clear?

The reason I'm so adamant about this point is because the first time I went to Packrat Louie (hereafter to be named Louie's—I'm not going to keep typing the whole thing), I had a

nice lunch and was more than prepared to review it. But, in the waning small talk with the server, she just happened to mention that the menu was going to change—next week. As in right about the time my review on the non-existent menu would be published. Crap.

When I mentioned this to my editor (let's call him "F" as it is, after all, Bond season), he was none-too-fussed and simply pointed out that I was a social scientist type and could simply do a pre- and post-test, comparing the sample differences. Novel

concept, I reckoned, and so that's what I set out to do. Except that when I got there the next time the lunch menu hadn't changed. The dinner menu had, but not the lunch one. Crap.

Undaunted, I set out a third time, leaving Louie's enough time to launch the new menu. Nicht on the new menu. So I went for lunch again, and had something off the old menu—which may or may not exist at the time of writing.

So here's the thing about the butternut squash ravioli appetizer. It's

like a curve ball to me. I can't hit a curve ball, but I can't lay off one either. I swing at them every time, and invariably strike out. I've had the butternut squash ravioli appetizer on each visit (can't lay off it), and each time it's the same (strike out). The dough on the pasta is too thick, so no matter how much it's cooked, it's always on the raw end of *al dente*.

Additionally, the white wine cream sauce that it's tossed in is too "bound" (they thicken it with a roux it seems, likely so that they can hold it in a steam table). At any rate, it thickens and becomes a gooey mess by the time the pasta gets to the table, which means that between the raw dough and the gooey sauce, the delicate flavour of the butternut squash is lost. What you really want here is the Italian version of silk pasta. What you get is a perogy.

I've also had the catch of the day on each of my visits. The first time I had it because I thought it sounded good. The second time I had it so that my pre- and post-test results would be based on relative comparators. I had it the third time because nothing else on the menu sounded appetizing.

The catch of the day always seems to be a piece of fish on a salad. The salad always seems to have purple onions, mixed greens (mescal with arugula as far as I can tell—portifino blend at the Safeway) and some oddly placed sliced white button mushrooms. Now the first time I had this, I thought the mushrooms were meant to pair with the halibut—or was it cod? Either way, both go well with cepe or porcini mushrooms, and button mushrooms, I guess, are in the ballpark. However, mushrooms also apparently go with Arctic char (not so

much). I guess what I'm trying to say is that it seems a bit formulaic as far as I can tell.

More importantly, the greens are always tossed in far too much vinaigrette. Now I like a bit of oil with my fish—hell, I even like oily fish with oil—but this is always too much.

I'm going to lay my cards on the table right here, though: I like Louie's. I think you'd be hard-pressed to find a place in Edmonton with a cozier and more inviting atmosphere.

In a lot of respects, it has everything that a very nice bistro-style restaurant should. It's got a great street presence, there's a lot of activity going on outside the window while you're wrapped warmly around a glass of red wine, and the staff is mostly professional and courteous without being pretentious. But, I think the food could be better.

It's not bad. It's just that the menu (the old lunch one) is like a Maccaroni set. It's a bunch of building blocks that are interchangeable and not very imaginative. Also, the food preparation is, in my mind, a style that sits above an Earl's but is below a five star place.

I've worked in places like this when I was younger and I made the same mistakes. The focus seems to be "turn 'em and burn 'em" (meaning let's push through volume quickly using Journeyman/Red Seal techniques that have been altered to maximize production).

Now, in fairness to Louie's, there's a new chef and owner who has said he's going to change the menu, so he might feel the same way I do. I had a look at his new dinner menu, and it's a vast improvement over the old one.

In fact, the server who showed it to me said she felt it was the most innovative in town. I didn't agree, but it was interesting enough that I'd go back (again), just to give it a go.

And lord knows I've been there enough already.

MONTE KRUEGER

RECOMMENDED

RECENTLY

DINER

TASTY TOM'S DINER (9965-82 Ave.) Despite the name, it's not a "turkey-only" restaurant. In fact, there's a fairly eclectic menu offering a wide range of diner favourites at OK prices. Tom's is a good choice for a nice summer Sunday brunch on the back patio, or a laid back burger and beer. ★★★★★ (May 2006)

FRENCH

LA TABLE DE KENOIR (10046-101A Ave.) I can't think of a better way to spend your lunch hour or a warm summer evening than sitting out on La Table de Kenoir's patio enjoying one their traditionally prepared Provencal classics. A nice touch of cafe culture here in downtown Edmonton never hurt anyone. ★★★★★ (July 2006)

FUSION

L'AZIA (10200-102 Ave.) Something for everyone hardly begins to describe L'Azia. A great place for group outings or fun evenings for two in warm and inviting surroundings with good food. If you can't find something on their extensive menu to fit your taste and

budget, it's your own damn fault. ★★★★★ (April 2006)

BURGERS

MOTORAUT (12406-66 St.) Although the food is relatively good, the real reason for visiting Motoraut is to see the physical structure of the place. To say it's unique hardly does it justice. Overall, it's a fun place to go and experience with some friends. Unless you've been before, you've likely never had an experience like Motoraut. ★★★★★ (Nov 2006)

ITALIAN

SANTOS PIZZA AND STEAK (10821 95 St.) Excellent place for a lunchtime sandwich in the heart of Edmonton's little Italia. It's not all fancy schmancy and uptight or

anything, but then again it isn't all fancy schmancy and uptight. They offer good standard Italian fare, prepared well, at reasonable prices. What's not to like? ★★★★★ (Sept 2006)

CENTRAL AMERICAN

EL MARQUEZ MEXICAN RESTAURANT

(11810-87 St.) If you're looking for some quick Mexican-esque take-out food, this prepared from scratch authentic Mexican/Salvadoran restaurant isn't the place for you. Allow yourself some time to sit back and enjoy El Rancho's authentic food at reasonable prices. ★★★★★ (Mar 2006)

MIDDLE EASTERN

KAMIL'S TURKISH CAFE AND RESTAURANT (12408-118 Ave.) If you're the type

that can relax and just go with the flow and not be too off-put by Kamil's location and informal nature, you might have a new favourite little spot for some down-home Turkish food. ★★★★★ (Aug 2006)

CAFÉ

MILL CREEK CAFÉ (9562-82 Ave.) If you're visiting Edmonton and staying downtown, walk south down the stairs at the MacDonald, cross the bridge, and head into Mill Creek ravine. Follow the path, go up the hill at the Mill Creek Pool parking lot and wander right to the Mill Creek Café for a light bite to eat. That way, you'll experience both the great geography and the small town hospitality we're so proud of. ★★★★★ (Oct 2006)



韓国
KOREAN VILLAGE
RESTAURANT
Edmonton's Best Korean Food

Come and Experience BBQ Buffet Cooked Right at your Table

\$19.95

Book your
Christmas Party
Now

Holds 75 people upstairs

Karaoke
available

7727-85TH Street
466-5666

Open 5pm-10pm Daily
Closed Wednesdays

FALL SPECIAL

\$45 (inc. GST)
1 Hour Massage
first visit only



Russ'
Therapeutic Touch Inc.
406-7578
#206, 9006-132 AVENUE

GREYHOUND GALLERY 9860-90 Ave., 433-0388
New oils by Rhonda Harder-Epp, water-
color by Friedrich Peter R.C.A., ceramic
by Maurice Lwambwa-Tshang, collages
by and new ceramics by Debra
Dewett
SNAP GALLERY Society of Northern Alberta Print
Arts, 10207-97 St., 432-1492—Hours: Tues
5-8 pm, Wed 5-8 pm, Thurs 5-8 pm, Fri 5-8 pm, Sat 11 am-5 pm, Sun 11 am-5 pm. Info: snap@snapartists.com
STANLEY A. MILNER LIBRARY GALLERY Sir Wilfrid
Laurier Church Square, 466-7043—Until Nov
10. Exhibiting: Materials and Techniques 1700.
Developed by the Canadian Bookbinders
Association Artists Guild.
STRATHCONA CITY MUSEUM & ARCHIVES
613 4th St., Sherwood Park, 475-8189
Throughout Nov Memorabilia from WWI &
WWII featuring private collections from Rick
Crawley & Barry Gethel. Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-4 pm, Sat 11 am-4 pm. Info: www.strathcona.ca/museum.ca
STUDIO GALLERY 111 Perron St., St. Albert, 460-5993—Until Dec 31 "Small Works" by Studio
artists. Hours: Tues-Fri, 10 am-5 pm; Sat, 10 am-4 pm; Sun, by appointment. 460-5990.
**TELEVISION OF SCIENCE (AKA Edmonton's
Space & Science Centre)** 1121-142 St., 451-3344—Permanent Exhibits: The Body Fantasic,
Mystery Avenue, The Green's House, Space
Place, Discoveryland & DinoDen in the Explorer
Gallery. Science Space Science. Science
Demos - Cryogenics, What's What Puts The
Fire in Soda Pop? Info: 451-3344, www.edsi-
on.ca
THEATRE'S DECOR 10135-82 Ave., 434-2414—
Fast, French art by Razzi, life art tables, custom
pearl art by Richard Dixon, & vintage neon
theatre signs. Hours: Tues-Sat, 10 am-5 pm.
TRANSALTA BARN 10330-84 Ave.—Hours: 11 am-8 pm
TRIO GALLERY 10718-124 St.—Info: 452-9662 or
www.triogallery.ca
URBAN ROOTS 10143-82 Ave.—By appointment
only. 438-7978
VAA GALLERY Visual Arts Alberta Association,
3rd Fl., 10215-112 St., 421-7131—Nov 23-Dec
23 Spectrum, works by Lundy Dale, Pam
Vieze & Theodor Krohn.
VICTORIA COLLEGE COURSE 12300 River Valley
Dr.—Nov 23-Dec 23 The World of Mud & Thatch,
an African art exhibition & sale, presented by
Kishor Kishor. Info: Murray, 451-1770.
VISON IMAGES GALLERY 14224 Story Plain
Road—Info: 414-0866.
WEST END GALLERY 12308 Jasper Ave.—Info:

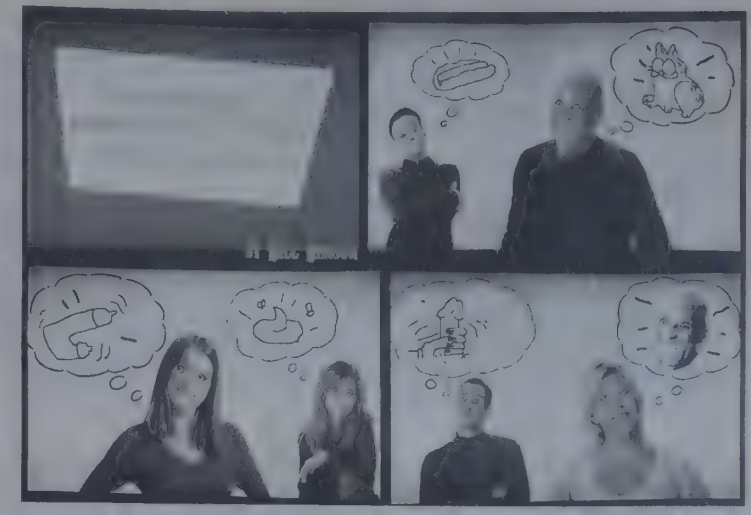
MUSEUMS

ALBERTA AVIATION MUSEUM 11410 Kingsway
E., 451-1175—Edmonton based pilot display
of WWI-era double-wing, double-long hangar.
Daily, 10 am-4 pm.
CITY OF EDMONTON ARCHIVES 10440-108 Ave.,
496-8710—More than 50,000 catalogued
photographs and slides from the 1880s to the
present. Two display galleries. Free admission.
Hours: Weekdays, 8:30 am-4:30 pm.
JOHN WALTER MUSEUM 10651-91 Ave., 496-8787—Admission is free, donations gladly
accepted. Info: www.edmonton.ca/johnwalter
JOHN WALTER MUSEUM MILITARY MUSEUM
118, Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage
Centre, 10440-108 Ave.—Current exhibiting
art, photos, documents, and leads on one
of Canada's most important battles of World
War I. Hours: Weekdays, 10 am-4 pm.
MUSE HERITAGE MUSEUM 5 St. Anne St., St.
John, 459-1528—Hours: Mon-Sat, 10 am-5 pm, Sun, 1-5 pm. Admission: Suggested
donation of \$2. Info and registration: 459-
1528.
ROYAL ALBERTA MUSEUM 12845-102 Ave., 453-9100—Permanent Exhibitions: Wild Alberta
explores Alberta's natural habitat. The Synchro-
tron of Ancient and Modern Cultures traces the evolution
of life in Alberta's Aboriginal past.
Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 10 am-5 pm. Info: 453-9100.
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tron of Ancient and Modern Cultures traces the evolution
of life in Alberta's Aboriginal past.
Hours: Mon-Fri 10 am-5 pm, Sat 10 am-5 pm, Sun 10 am-5 pm. Info: 453-9100.

www.RoyalAlbertaMuseum.ca
TELEPHONE MUSEUM Prince of Wales Armouries
Heritage Centre 10444-108 Ave., 433-1010—
Hours: Tue-Fri, 10 am-3 pm. Admission by
donation

MEETINGS

ADHD SUPPORT Glenrose Hospital, 10230-111
Ave.—Every first & third Tue.
ADA/CH.A.D.D. hosts an adult support meeting
for attention disorders. Info: 406-5212
ALBERTA ENTREPRENEURS ASSOCIATION The Fac-
ulty Centre, 11435 Saskatchewan Dr.—Every third Tue.
5:30 pm-9 pm. Pre-register at
www.aeo.ab.ca
BUSINESS & BEYOND TOASTMASTERS CLUB U of A
BUS 89—Every Mon, 6:30 pm. Practice
and enhance your communication, leadership &
public speaking. Info: 492-0910 or
www.bus89.com
CHRISTOPHER LEADERSHIP COURSE—Non-profit
organization that offers effective public speaking
courses. Deal with nervousness, develop effec-
tive speaking skills, and explore leadership
potential. Info: 468-6498
CORNERSTONE COUNSELLING CENTRE—OASIS
for Offering Anonymous and Safe Informative
Support, is a group program for people who
live with someone, or are close friends with
someone, who suffers from severe depression or
mental illness. Info: www.cornerstonecoun-
selling.com
CRANKPOTS Cranpots ceramic studio, 10702-82
Ave.—Free "Happy Hour" painting workshops
Mon-Thru, 10 am-2 pm. Info: 414-1005
CSS WORKSHOPS Catholic Social Services offices
Call 420-6880 for info & registration
ENTHUSIASTIC SENIORS TOASTMASTERS 1113-
113 St.—First & Third Tue of each month,
1:30pm. Become an effective and relaxed
speaker. Info: 405-6408
EQUITABLE CHILD MAINTENANCE & ACCESS
SOCIETY Seniors Lions Club, 1113-111 Ave.
—Every second Mon, 7 pm. Info:
www.seniorslions.ca
FASTFEST SPEED DATING—Canada's most stylish
speed dating & singles event service. Invitation
only events take place in Edmonton every week
To attend an event, register online at
www.fastfest.ca
FAYA Ontario Armoury, 9722-102 St., 429-1671
—Every Mon, 7-10 pm. Monday Night Club
screenwriters, directors & actors workshop a
scene for camera. Call: 429-1671 or visit
FAYA.ca
HIP MAMAS MEET-UP GROUP—A group of
young mothers and their babies meet several
times a week for activities and attend events
together. Free to join, plenty of friends to be
made. Info: hippomamas.meetup.com/151/
IMAGES ALBERTA CAMERA CLUB—2nd & 4th
Thurs of the month, 8 pm. Allendale School 6415
—106 St. Informative, entertaining presenta-
tions, speakers, workshops, outings, monthly
and year-end competitions. Photographic enthu-
siasts of all levels welcome. Visitors may attend
3x before joining. Membership: individual
\$40, Family (\$2+ at same address) \$50, full-time
students \$20. For further info see
www.imagesalberta.com or call Shelly 469-9776
JUBILEE TOASTMASTERS CLUB—Every Tue, 7 pm
ABC Country Restaurant, 12707-140 Ave. Gain
confidence & hone your communication skills
one-on-one or with groups. Info:
www.jubileetm.ca
LADIES COFFEE NIGHT—Every Wed, 7 pm. Dairy
Queen, Westmount Village. Meeting to stop
oppression & raise awareness of women's
issues. Info: 437-6661
NORWOOD TOASTMASTERS CLUB 11150-82 St.
—Every Thru, 8-10 pm. Improve public speak-
ing & communication skills. Info: 424-2707 or
www.norwoodtoastmasters.org
OPPORTUNITIES UNLIMITED NETWORKING
GROUP Edmonton Chamber of Commerce,
#600, 11023-99 St.—Every Fri, 6:45-8:30 am.
Develop new business relationships and
hear keynote speaker, Jerry Schell. Admission:
\$2, everyone welcome. Info: 426-4260
OXFAM CANADA University of Alberta, Tory 4-10
—Every second Wed of the month, 6:30 pm
Human rights based group that works on social
justice issues through education & advocacy
Info: oxfam@yaho.ca
PARAGON TOASTMASTERS CLUB Downtown—
Every Thru, noon-1 pm. Improve your listening,
thinking & speaking skills. Info: 427-0552 or
405-6803
POWERSPEAKERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB—Every
Wed, 7 pm-9 pm. MacEwan Centre for the
Arts, 10445-156 St. RN 437. Develop effective
public speaking & communication skills in a fun,
dynamic & supportive environment. Info: 483-
0312
PURSUERS TOASTMASTERS CLUB—Every Wed, 7
pm. Best Western—Garden Park Inn, Calgary
Trail & 81 Ave. Become more confident speak-
ing to groups & individuals through our proven
program. Info: www.pursuers.org
SCREENWRITERS CIRCLE Fava Site—First Tue
of every month, 7:30 pm. Established & budding
screenwriters discuss craft & share work-in-
progress. Info: 429-1671 or visit FAVA.ca
SUPPORT GROUP FOR THOSE LIVING WITH THE
MUTUALITY ILL—Cornerstone Counseling Cen-



tre, 11111 Jasper Ave., 482-6215. First & third
Wed of each month, 7 pm.
THE OUTSIDERS SUPPORT GROUP—Every Wed
7-8:30 pm. A support group for families and
friends of loved ones who are incarcerated or
on parole. Providing emotional support, info
and a place to share. Info: 471-1122
TOASTMASTERS CLUB 7103-105 St.—Every Tue,
7 pm. Speaking & leadership training. Info:
454-1915
UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION IN CANADA—
Nov 23, 7 pm. RN 6-217, Grant MacEwan Col-
lege City Centre campus. Topic: Treatment of
Citizens in Conflict Zones. New members wel-
come. Info: visit edmonton.unaoc.org or call 497-
5326
UPWARD BOUND TOASTMASTERS RN 601,
Norquest Centre, 10215-18 St.—Every
Wed, 7 pm. Improve your public speaking skills.
Info: 477-2613 www.upb.ca
WEST END TOASTMASTER CLUB "COMMUNICA-
TION AND LEADERSHIP" 10451-170 St., Rear
Entrance, Main Floor Boardroom—Every Tue,
7-9 pm. Communication involves listening
skills, giving appropriate feedback and public
speaking. Join the friendly environment of per-
sonal progress and mutual support during two
hourly meetings. Info: 495-5424
YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT
GROUP Knox Metropolitan United Church,
8307-109 St.—Every third Thu of the month
the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is
offering a support group for people in their 20s
and 30s who have MS and their family &
friends. Info: 471-3034
YOUNG MEN'S ADVANCEMENT SOCIETY—Are
you between the ages of 18-26 and want to
improve your life? For info on the society call
499-9668

ACTIVISM

ANNEST INTERNATIONAL Knox Metropolitan
Church, 8307-109 St.—All
are welcome. Info: 462-1871
ANARCHIST READING CIRCLE DISCUSSION
GROUP Fine Arts Building, lounge at bottom of
stairway, U of A Campus, 114 St. & 89 Ave.—
Every Sun, 4 pm. Meet for critical discussion of
contemporary anarchist readings, the theory and
practice of anarchism and current international
and local events. Current readings available at
www.oxgenshine.com/cr-ao
BIKE OPS—Fix your own bike! Edmonton
Bicycle Community's BikeWorks is entirely run
by volunteers, full hours are Wed 5 pm-9 pm,
and Sat 12 noon-5 pm. Call ahead 433-
2453. Full organization info at: www.edmon-
tonbikes.ca
COUNCIL OF CANADIANS—Every third Wed of
the month. An independent, public interest orga-
nization that works to promote economic justice,
renew democracy and assert Canadian sover-
eignty. Info: 429-4500
EDMONTON SMALL PRESS ASSOCIATION—
Every third Wed, 7 pm. ESPA is an activist arts
organization with members from 32 countries.
Always seeking socially conscious artists, and
production volunteers. Info: 434-9236 or con-
tact@edmontonsmallpress.org
INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD—Second
Thu of the month, 7 pm. RN 2-42, Humanities
Building, U of A Campus. Meetings are open to
the public. Info: edmonton.iww.ca
MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION Faculte Saint-
Jean, 8406-91 St. Room 318—Every third &
fourth Sat of the month, 9 am-5 pm. An orga-
nization for the emancipation and autonomy of

African women through programs on economy,
community radio and community health. Offers
training on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and
harm reduction in French, English and other
African languages. Admission free for members,
membership \$10. Call 490-7332 to register
PEACE AMBASSADORS INITIATIVE—Every Mon,
5 pm-7 pm, Education North 4-104, U of A
Campus. A youth group that promotes anti-
racist & diversity workshops. Info: 425-4644 or
www.ncart.org
PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS, CORPORATIONS HAVE
RESPONSIBILITIES: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON
BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS—Nov 28, 7:30
pm. CAB 239, U of A Campus. Panelists Jeff
Flood of Amnesty International Canada, Peter
Pellatt, lecturer on Business Ethics with the Fac-
ulty of Business, and Jessica Warren, co-chair of
Oxfam Canada. Many corporations today wield
more economic power than governments, and
thus their influence is considerable. As citizens,
students, consumers, employees or employers,
we have the power to affect the actions of cor-
porations. From conflict diamonds to sweat
shops, forced labour to displacement of indige-
nous peoples, their business is our business
SERIAL CLUB OF CANADA—Proirie Chapter
works with, and is always seeking, ecologically
and socially conscious individuals to build a
strong grassroots movement in the Prairies. Info:
www.sierialclub.ca/proirie
UNESCO COALITION FOR PEACE—Meets on the
last Fri of every month, 3 pm. Bayle McCauley
Library, 2nd Fl. Boardroom, 10628-96
St. Info: 923-5566
UNIVERSITY COALITION AGAINST WAR
& RACISM Humanities Centre, RN 1-7, U of A
Campus—Every Thru, 4:30-6 pm. A public
interest group working in education & organiz-
ing invites concerned public to attend coalition
meetings.
VOA XMAS POTLUCK DINNER—Dec 10, 5:30
pm. Riverside Hall, 72312-100 Ave. Bring a
veg, veggie, or raw dish to feed at least 8
people, festive attire & decorations are encour-
aged. Members \$2, non-members \$3.
WOMEN IN BLACK Strathcona Farmer's Market,
83 Ave. & 103 St.—First & third Sat of every
month, 10-11 am. An international women's
peace and anti-racism group formed by Jewish
& Arab women in 1988 opposes violence in all
its forms. All women, men and children invited
to attend a silent vigil. Info: 435-7051

HEALTH & WELLNESS

CANADIAN NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE—
11205-101 St., 497-1999 Offers a range of
services for members of the Native community
including a free community lunch every Friday
at noon, employment & Public Health informa-
tion, counselling referrals & one-on-one support,
A&D&C & Legal Aid referrals, and low cost or
free basic housing & clothing referrals. Mon
Basketball 5 pm, Healing Circle 6 pm, Boxing
7 pm Tue Boxing 5 pm, Volleyball 6 pm, sewing
Circle 6 pm Wed Beadwork Class 6 pm, CNFC
Pow-wow 6 pm Thu Hip Hop class 5 pm, Cree
class 6 pm, boxing 7 pm Fri Elders & Residency
Day, Sals Using & Harm Reduction (last Fri
of every month) 11 am, Tobacco Reduction 1 pm,
Drop-in Night 6 pm
CLUB LULU LULULENE, 10544-82 Ave.—Fun &
innovative weekly activities to get you moving.
Visit www.lululemon.ca, call 435-9363 or

email: whyle-community@lululemon.com to re-
gister
CSS WORKSHOPS Catholic Social Services offices
—Info: 420-6081
FAMILY CONSTELLATION—Every 2nd & 4th Wed,
7 pm. 10431-37 Ave. Feel burdened by life
family, feelings, or work? When will you live
your own life? Find the best place for YOU
Workshop Nov 25. Info: 967-9162 or
www.constellationcurrents.ca
GENTLE YOGA Radha Yoga Centre 9946-87 Ave
—Weekly classes in small group settings and
Sunday Satsang (by donation). Enquire about
schedule & fees. Info: 432-3363 or
www.radha.org
HIV NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY 300
11456 Jasper Ave. 488-5742—Hours: Mon
Wed & Thru, 9 am-5 pm, Tue, 9 am-7 pm &
Fri, 9 am-4 pm
LIVING POSITIVE Suite 404, 10408-124 St.—
Every Tue, 7 pm-9 pm. A confidential space
where P&Z people can discuss & share common
issues of concern. A peer-driven, AIDS service
organization, providing direct support to people
living w/ HIV in Alberta. Info: 488-5768
MADELINE SANAM FOUNDATION Faculte Saint-
Jean, 8406 91 St., Room 318—Every third
& fourth Sat of the month, 9 am-5 pm. An
organization for the emancipation and auton-
omy of African women through programs on
economy, community radio and community
health. Offers training on HIV/AIDS prevention,
treatment and harm reduction in French, English
and other African languages. Admission free for
members, membership \$10. Call 490-7332 to
register
MASSAGE THERAPY—Every Thu, Nov-Feb. CDJ
College Massage Therapy students holding open
public clinics. Relaxation massage \$20/hour
Info: call 463-7900
OPEN YOUR MIND! 11403-101 St.—Garden
Santen Lin Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Soci-
ety. Meditation and Buddhist teachings by our
resident teacher, Tibetan Buddhist monk, Kunkuk
Labrang Phomchoe. Beginners Tue, 7pm. Inter-
mediate Wed, 7pm. Advanced practices Sun,
11-11. Info: 479-0014
www.gadensanteling.org (822-112 St.)—
Info: 413-1730
RAJA YOGA MEDITATION—#208, 10132-105
St. In association with the Brahma Kumaris
World Spiritual Organization. For info on intro-
ductory classes or events go to www.bksworld.org
or call 425-1050
TRANQUILITY MEDITATION 10302-70 Ave.—
Every Wed, 7 pm. Meditation w/ Tibetan tradi-
tional female lama Ani Kunsang. Info: 633-
6157
YOUNG ADULTS MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SUPPORT
GROUP Knox Metropolitan United Church,
8307-109 St.—Every third Thu of the month
the Edmonton Chapter of the MS Society is
offering a support group for people in their 20s
and 30s who have MS and their family &
friends. Info: 471-3034

READINGS & LECTURES

ARCHITECT ANTOINE PREDOCK—Nov 29, 7 pm.
Royal Alberta Museum, 12845-102 Ave. Part of
the Museum Builders Series, presented by
M.A.D.E. In Edmonton, the AGA and Edmonton
Design Committee. Tickets \$10, available at TIX,
\$5 for AGA & MADE members.

able aged 10 & up. Info: 975-6910 or 460-0023
YOUTH DROP-IN CENTRE Castle Downs YMCA, 15150 153 Ave., 476-9622 — Every Fri, 7-11 pm. Basketball, air hockey, foosball, swimming, xer gym. Call Trent, 476-9622 for more info.

QUEER

MEANS — Inclusion facility, U of A Campus — Focus group on sex and gender differences in education. Pre-service & practicing teachers, all members welcome. Email: means@valberta.ca or Agape events 492-0772
OUT OF U of A Campus — A campus-based organization for GLBTQ faculty, graduates, students & staff. Straight allies are also welcome. Meetings: Cantab levels@valberta.ca
PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 Ave., 488-3234 — GLBTQ Community & Resource Centre. Open or take part in special programs: Mon-Thurs 1 pm - 10 pm, Fri 3 pm - 6 pm. Info: www.pridecentre.ca

THURSDAY

BISEXUAL WOMEN'S COFFEE GROUP — Second Thurs each month 7:30 pm. A social group for bisexual and bi-curious women. Info: info@biwomen.ca or 460-0023
COCAINE ANONYMOUS MEETING — Every Thu, 7:30 pm. Info: 460-0023
FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL Amiskwewy Academy, 101 Airport Rd. — Every Thu, 8 pm - 10 pm. GLBTQ players, intermediate level. Coaching & drills provided. Info: Alex at 424-9984 or alex@shelby.net. Recreational night every Wednesday. Info: 460-0023
QUEEN'S 558.88.5 — 6 pm. Edmonton's only lesbian show about gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered lives. Featuring news, local and national features and community events.
POSITIVE GLBTQ SUPPORT GROUP — Every second Thu 7 pm - 9 pm, Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.). Info: 460-0023
PRIDE BEHAVIORS DROP-IN — Every Thu, 2 pm - 4 pm. Info: 460-0023
QUEEN'S SOCIAL CLUB The Roost, 10345-104 St. — Second Thu of each month. Cross-dressers, heterosexuals, friends & supporters meet. Info: 460-0023
MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational & competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue & Thu. Socializing after practice. Info: www.gocities.com/makingwaves.edm

FRIDAY

CURLING WITH PRIDE Shamrock Curling Club, 8820-90 Ave. — Every Fri, 9 pm. Info: curling@wingers.com
TRANS SUPPORT GROUP Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave. — Last Fri, every month, 7 pm. TTIQ Alliance, dinner & social evening for trans-indi-

vidual & questioning people, family & friends. Info: 718-1412 or tiqalliance@show.ca

SATURDAY

NORTHERN CHAPS Boots, 10242-106 St. — Edmonton's original leather-fetish-uniform club meets the first and third Sat of every month, 9 pm. Info: main@northernchaps.com or www.northernchaps.com
NORTHERN TITANS GLBTQ BOWLING LEAGUE Gateway Lanes & Recreation Centre, #100, 3414 Gateway Blvd. N — 5-7 pm. Group supper each week after bowling (optional). Cost is \$15 per person. Info: Peter 483-1075
SUIT UP & SHOW UP Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave. — Big Book study 12 noon - 3 pm
YOUTH UNDERSTANDING YOUTH Pride Centre 9540-111 Ave. — Every Sat, 7-9 pm. Providing a warm and friendly place where lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, straight and questioning youth under the age of 25 can gather to have fun and learn about themselves and others in a safe, supportive and caring environment. Info: members.show.ca/yuy

SUNDAY

ARCTIC FRONT RUNNERS — 10 am. A group of gay and lesbian runners meets Sun mornings and hits the river valley trails. Runners of all speeds are welcome. Our runs are typically 7-10 km long and take 40-60 minutes. Info: 460-0023
BEARS MOVIE NIGHT Pride Centre, 9540-111 Ave. — Last Sun of every month, 1 pm - 6 pm. Movies in the T.V. room. Info: 488-3234
EDMONTON TRANSEXUAL PEER SUPPORT GROUP — Every 2nd & 4th Sun, 2 pm, Pride Centre (9540-111 Ave.). Info: 488-3234
LAMBDA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH Garneau United Church, 11148 84 Ave. — Lambda provides a safe and healing space for Edmonton's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and heterosexual Christians and their friends. All denominations, faiths welcome. Worship at 7 pm, Sun. Info: 887-8611 or lambdachurch@show.ca
MEN'S DISCUSSION GROUP Pride Centre 9540-111 Ave. — Every Sun, 7 pm. Men's social & discussion group. Call: 488-3234
SOUTHWESTERN STEINHAUER UNITED CHURCH 10740 19 Ave. — 10 am. Welcomes people of all sexual orientations. Info: 987-4974
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TUESDAY

FREEDOM METHODIST CHURCH COMMUNITY CHURCH OF EDMONTON 10086 MacDonald Dr. — 7:15 pm. A church for all people. Info: 429-2321
GROUP MOVIE NIGHT — Phone to find out what movie, when to meet and where. Join us for coffee afterwards, too. Cost: Free for 2 members plus theatre costs. Info: 454-0313
MAKING WAVES SWIMMING CLUB — Recreational & competitive swimming with coaching. Beginners encouraged to participate. Practices every Tue & Thu. Socializing after practice. Info: www.gocities.com/makingwaves.edm

RED MEAT

peerless panopticon of the paltry

from the secret files of
MAX CANNON

Dang, I really gotta use the bathroom, but the park's restroom is locked up.

Thank god for camouflage pants.

OUTREACH Heritage Room Alhambra Hall, U of A Campus — 5 pm. U of A based group for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and straight, but friendly students, staff and faculty. Open to the community, not just U of A. Info: www.outreach.pixelalmyth.com or outreach@valberta.ca
PRIDE PRIDE CENTRE 9540-111 Ave. — Support meeting first Tues every month at 7 pm for parents, families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered people. Info: Ruby at 436-1998 or edmonton@pflagcanada.ca
TRANS SUPPORT GROUP Garneau United Church meeting room, 11148 84 Ave. — Second Tue of every month, 7:30 - 9:30 pm. TTIQ, an education & support group for trans-identified & questioning people. Info: 718-1412 or tiqalliance@show.ca

WEDNESDAY

EDMONTON RAINBOW BUSINESS ASSOCIATION — Meets the second Wed of every month, for casual networking with the GLBTQ business community. Locations listed on www.edmontonrba.org
FREE TO BE VOLLEYBALL Amiskwewy Academy, 101 Airport Rd. — Every Wed, 8 pm - 10 pm. GLBTQ players of all levels welcome. Info: Marc at 445-0358 or padmarc@hotmail.com
OPEN DOOR CLUB — Every Wed, 5 pm, Grant MacEwan College — City Centre Campus (Rm 6-217) A social group for GLBTQ students, faculty & friends at Grant MacEwan College
YOURS, MINE, OURS AND US (YMOU) — A support group for GLBTQ parents, partners and their friends. Meets first and third Wed of the month. Info: 426-6311 or 415-5434

BATH HOUSES

DOWN UNDER 12224 Jasper Ave., 482-7960, www.gayedmonton.com
STEAMERS 9668 Jasper Ave., 422-2581
STEAMWORKS 11745 Jasper Ave. — Open 24/7

info: 451-5554.

DANCE

CUBE — Nov 24 & 25, Freemason's Hall, 10318 100 Ave. Presented by Mile Zero Dance. Tickets \$10 members, \$12 non-members. available at The Landing Pad
DANCE OF UNIVERSAL PEACE — 2nd & 4th Mon of each month, 7:30 am. Riverdale Hall, 9231 100 Ave. Info: Call: 467-1285
RED THREAD — Dec 8 & 9, The Landing Pad #201, 10923-101 St. Presented by Mile Zero Dance. Tickets \$10 members, \$12 non-members, available at The Landing Pad
RODA DE CAPOEIRA — Every Sat, 1 pm, Capoeira Academy, 10540 Jasper Ave., 709-3500 A free performance of Capoeira, a Brazilian mix of dance, martial arts & music, invented by African slaves. Info: www.capoeiraedmonton.ca
SNOW WHITE & THE SEVEN GNOMES OF CHRISTMAS — Nov 28-Dec 17, Shogun Theatre Citadel Complex. Featuring the Ukrainian Shumka Dancers and the Kyiv Ballet. Tickets \$65-\$75, available at the Citadel Box Office
THE NUTCRACKER — Dec 15-17, Jubilee Auditorium, Alberta Ballet & Ballet British Columbia present this ballet best enjoyed in the company of a young love-one! See for yourself why it just isn't Christmas until the Snow Queen and her sweeping and swirling snowflakes magically summon the snow to fall. Tickets \$42-\$25-\$83.25, available at TM or the Jubilee Box office
TRIPTYCH SELF & OTHER DANCES — Dec 1 & 2, John L. Hoar Theatre, 10045-155 St. BWDC presents Natasha Bakht. Trained in Bharata Natyam, one of the oldest dance forms of India, Natasha Bakht pushes its wide range of movements, rhythms and mimetic gestures to create innovative fusion choreography, integrating her cultural heritage with a strong sense of her own individuality. Tickets available at TIX

LIVE COMEDY

DUKE OF ARGVYL 7230 Argyle Rd., 465-7931 — Every Sun Yuk Yuls On tour hosted by Paul Seavey
LEGENDS PUB #105 6101-172 St. 481-2786 — Every Mon Yuk Yuls comedy tour
THE COMEDY FACTORY 408-3414 Gateway Blvd 469-4999 — Nov 23-25 Lomont Ferasoun Regular shows Thu & Fri 8:30, Sat 8:30 & 10pm Wed Whacky Wednesday
THE COMIC STRIP WEM 483-5999 — Nov 23-26 Jeff Capri w/ Mike Harrison & Matt Wojcicki Mon Hit or Miss Mondays: amateurs compete for audience approval Tue Alternative Comedy night, hypnotists, magicians & street performers Info: www.thecomistrip.ca
YUK YUKS 66 St & 137 Ave Londonderry Mall — Nov 23 Just for laughs Festival showcase, featuring top acts from North America's most well-known comedy festival Nov 23-26 Duane Good, David Isonos & Allyson Smith Wed Pro Am Comedy Jam. Info: 481-9857

ALT CINEMA

HUNGARY: 50 YEARS AFTER 1956 — Nov 24-27 Metro Cinema, Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101A Ave. On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Hungarian Uprising in 1956, a watershed year in that Central European nation's modern history, the Canadian Film Institute in Ottawa assembled this package of four films which deal, in various cinematic styles, with the tumultuous events of October 1956
THE MIDAS TOUCH — Nov 25, 7 pm & Nov 26 9 pm. Metro Cinema, Zeidler Hall, Citadel Theatre Complex, 9828-101A Ave. In Budapest's Teluk Square Flea Market, Sándor Márai is a black-

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SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
Whassamatta you, Sagittarius? Jupiter opens a door for you and all
you're gonna do is just look at it? Why don'tcha walk through the
damn thing already? Sure, you don't have the faintest clue what's on
the other side, but you ain't gonna find out anything just standin'
there. Step inside!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
You've gotta admit that although you've been pretty good at climbin'
those cliffs, you've been gettin' some help from the other goats who
give you a nudge or two. This time it's a whole different deal. You're
strictly solo and again, this time with no rope so you've only got one
hope, the fact your climbin' skills are so dope!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
This weekend, a lil bit o' luck'll put you in a position of power. Now
before you think luck is all good, keep in mind that your acquisition
upsets the balance of said element. That usually means someone
else'll be hellbent on a fight, so you better be prepared to make a
show of your might! Get ready to rrrumble!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
Attemptin' to control the forces of chaos and change is like tryin'
to tug on the Tasmanian Devil's tail. It don't matter whether you suc-
ceed or fail, you're still gonna get bit. You're way better off just
jumpin' on and strappin' yourself in for the ride. You may spin pretty
fast, but he won't get a piece o' your hide!

ARIES (March 21-April 19)
As a cosmic soldier born under the auspices of the God of War, you
get kinda antsy in times of peace and happiness 'cause you just
wanna be out kickin' some asses. Well, you'll have to wait a while
before seein' another fray, so why don'tcha use your warrior ways
during your regular nine-to-five days? You'll soon see how well it
pays!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
Astrologically, you're a feckin' earth sign but most people would just
say you're solid as a rock. That ain't just talk. You can be completely
immova-bull when you wanna be, especially when you've got securi-
ty. This week, someone's tryin' to use words that are critical to push
your buttons, but you ain't bittin' and you ain't buggin'!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
You may be bit off more than you could chew, but that don't mean
it'll get the better of you. It just means you better stop procrastinat-
in' and get down to some serious masticatin'. As long as you keep on
chompin' away, you'll be able to clear up that plate in a couple o'
days!

CANCER (June 21-July 22)
If it ol' stress you still clasp, your last breath you're about to gasp!
Stagnant waters can't support life and the same old ideas can't free
you from strife. As this weekend begins, throw out all your old
notions and let new ones in. Pay attention to one in particular, it's
gonna help you win!

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
Ancient wisdom sez nature's the best teacher and you'd better
believe it, bub. Before the weekend's over, bone up on biology and
watch as many nature shows as you can. In particular, pay close
attention to the panoply of defense mechanisms displayed in the
wild kingdom 'cause come next week, you're gonna need 'em!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
Were you aware there's a traitor in your midst? One using faux
friendship as a tool towards a selfish outcome? A person who is
inevitably immune until the opportunities presented by the strate-
gic relationship dry up? Don't worry, they'll be dealt with soon. For
these situations, the Cosmos has its own herd goats!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
You scale people are pretty hip to the Universe's power to keep all
things in balance, but what about the power in yourself? Unless you
believe in that immense pool of resources, and in makin' the world a
more beautiful place, your fate is to fall flat on your face. Luck helps
those who help themselves too, y'know!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
Vipers never get caught and the road gets rough, it's easy to trade it
for a swig or a puff. Well, whether you realize it or not, your goal's
near and what you need now is a mind that's clear. You'll lose sight
of your destination with vision that's clouded or hazy and besides,
smokin' 'n' drinkin' just makes you lazy. Why stop when you're so
close?

You can contact The Kid at cruisinthecosmos@hotmail.com

What women really want

Study of female pleasure debunks common beliefs

WHY IS IT THAT A WOMAN WHO ENJOYS casual sex is pegged as "having sex like a man?"

The question bugged Jocelyn Wentland, a Masters student in the Department of Family Relations and Human Development at Guelph University.

"Even with all of the changes to stereotypes, as a society we continue to view sexual behaviour as belonging to either a man or a woman," complains Wentland. "Sexual behaviour that doesn't fit nicely into [the expected behaviour of either gender] gets viewed as 'out of the norm.' So women who don't act like the 'nice girl,' who only have sex in the context of a committed relationship get pegged as 'acting like a man.'"

Unfortunately, most of the research on women and sex these days seems to focus on "sexual dysfunction." There's little research, says Wentland, on women who actually like sex, and what little there is, is hopelessly out of date and doesn't reflect what's actually going on out there.

So she did her own. Over 1500 women (half between the ages of 20 and 30) responded to her online survey on the topic of female sexual pleasure and the results were refreshing.

Despite common stereotypes that you practically need a degree in aeronautics to unlock the mysteries of female sexual arousal, 88.4 per cent of Wentland's participants said they are "easily sexually aroused."

SELF-ESTEEM ISN'T THE ISSUE
THINK MEN ARE THE ONLY ONES WITH SEX

MY MESSY BEDROOM

JOCELYN WENTLAND

constantly on the brain? Almost three-quarters of the women surveyed said they "like to have sex once a day." Over 80 per cent "really enjoy masturbating to orgasm" and over 90 per cent don't feel guilty about it afterward. As for the notion that women aren't sexually assertive, over 90 per cent said they are comfy initiating with a partner, 70 per cent said they enjoy "touching myself during sex" and almost 70 per cent say they are "the type of person who insists on having my sexual needs met."

Hardly the profile of the sexually inhibited, we really only enjoy sex in the context of love woman we're most comfortable with as a society.

Another common myth Wentland was happy to debunk is that women who have a lot of sex partners are automatically presumed to have "low self-esteem and low social skills."

"I think that this is totally off base," she responds. "It's often the women who are very confident, sure of themselves, and have high social skills, who are capable of engaging in sexual activity outside of a relationship and be perfectly OK with this

because they are able to separate the sex from the emotions."

Wentland also came up with some surprising results regarding casual sex and women.

"There is this ongoing belief that any type of a casual relationship must be a one-night-stand [in part because] we don't have accurate numbers on the types of casual relationships that women are having," explains Wentland. "Of the women who are casually dating and did not identify that their last sex partner was a com-

"Maybe women are finally admitting that they do what has only been acceptable for men to do in the past."

JOCELYN WENTLAND

mitted partner—almost 32 per cent have a regular casual sex partner, 42 per cent a 'fuck buddy' or 'friend with benefits,' nine per cent a 'booty call,' and 17 per cent had had a one-night-stand."

Obviously, women engage in a variety of casual relationships, often with a regular partner. "Maybe women are finally

admitting that they do what has only been acceptable for men to do in the past," comments Wentland.

WOMEN ON THE FRONTPAGES

WHILE WENTLAND'S RESULTS PAINT A strong picture of a sexually confident woman who are easily aroused, know what they want, and are comfortable with their sexuality, she admits that because she purposely posted the survey in places where it would be found by women who are more interested in and open to their sexuality (like the My Messy Bedroom website), her findings aren't necessarily reflective of the average woman.

But that's part of the point. Just as no one's doing research on men who only want to have sex within the context of a committed relationship, Wentland wanted to hear from women who challenge the female stereotype.

And according to some of her respondents, it was about time.

"It is so refreshing to see someone doing scientific research on this topic," wrote one 24-year-old participant. "[...] Pleasure of a sexual nature is a biological function that we were built to have and I'm glad you are referring to it as 'sexual pleasure' and not the historical 'promiscuity.'"

"Thanks for doing it," wrote another, 23. "[...] Hopefully women like myself will be able to better accept the notion that sex is allowed to be pleasurable and should be!"

And it has nothing to do with how manly she is.

For results of Wentland's survey, visit: www.uoguelph.ca/~jwentlan/debriefing.htm

QUICKIES

CATCH EYE ON THE GUY: ALAN B. STONE

and the Age of the Beefcake, a documentary about Montreal photographer Stone who made a killing in the '50s selling erotic photos to gay men around the world. Nov. 26 at 8 p.m. on Bravo.

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pimple poppin' pugatory

strange but easily satisfied urge gives upper hand

AM A 23-YEAR-OLD LESBIAN IN A relationship of three months. In these three months, I have been tied up, spanked, cut, and put on display for strangers at the request because she likes it and I'm into it. My one and only kink is that I get a little sexual thrill out of popping zits. She doesn't mind when she's on her period and she hates, hates, HATES being touched during her period. She is also terrified that popping her zits will give her scars. I don't think she's being fair, but she is not budging.

On the one hand, we're very compatible and I could really see this relationship lasting somewhere. On the other hand, her zits doesn't make me so attached and I'll be crying in my corn flakes if I end it. I'm also not thrilled that she's not GGG with me. She has suggested I find someone else to get my zit-popping groove on with, but I don't like being with more than one person at a time.

So what do you think? Keep trying to convince her it doesn't have to scar, or just tell her to go and find a gal who's more into being groomed?

Dyke Making Decisions

her letter may be total bullshit, DMD, but the running of it to appease the whiners out there who bitch every time my column touches on politics. Last week's Haggard/Santorum breakdown resulted in some particularly nasty e-mails. "Enough with the politics," whined. "Bring back the freaks!"

Others spanking, cutting, burning, and popping—that's some freaky shit. Lip it up, whiners.

Okay, DMD, while your kink may be less weird than your girlfriend's hardcore kink, you have more leverage at your disposal here than you realize. As kinky as your kink is, you will have a much easier time finding a new girlfriend. Your next girlfriend may allow you to pop her zits grudgingly and only in private, and may have a large part of your expense before, during, and after, but she'll probably go there. Girls who are into zits and/or willing to be spanked, cut, whipped, tied up, and publicly displayed are much harder to find.

So stop a bomb, DMD: She submits to a weekly zit-popping session to keep you—because you, GGG you—in her life. If she won't, not.

On an 18-year-old female college student in New York City—of average weight and average in the face. With all the freaky kinks out there, you would think I would be able to find a guy to satisfy my kinky kink. I'm extremely dominant—in and out of the bedroom. Most of the submissive guys I find are 50-year-old white men. When I do find younger guys who are into the whole submissive thing, they just want sex and not a relationship. Where can I find a submissive 18-year-old guy interested in a serious relationship?

All About Me

PS. When I say dominant, I mean I get an inflicting pain, the whole nine yards.

Another kinky woman, whiners—and a whiner one at that. You're welcome.

Okay, AAM, at your age you can't have much less played with, more than a handful of subs close to your own age. As

SAVAGE LOVE

DAN SAVAGE

your sample of New York City's teen subs is so small, you should refrain from drawing any broad conclusions about this relatively large group of men. While some young sub males may not be into relationships [just like many nonsub young males], I would guess the majority are looking for love and hard-to-explain-at-the-gym bruises.

So why haven't any of the subs you've played with wanted a relationship? Well, AAM, some were probably not interested in relationships, as you hypothesize, while others simply weren't interested in a relationship with you. Sexual compatibility and emotional compatibility do not necessarily go hand in hand, AAM. The sub guys you meet via Internet personals and through BDSM groups who dig your attractive face, average weight, and pain-infliction technique may be repulsed by your personality or your politics. Like any other woman in New York City—18 or older, black or white, kinky or vanilla—you're just going to have to hang in there until you meet a guy who digs everything you have to offer.

I have this extreme fetish. I fantasize about wrestling with a guy while wearing slippery, smooth stockings or garter belts and pantyhose. The slipperier the nylons the hornier it makes me. I have made contacts in an attempt to connect with another guy and live out my fantasy, but I've always chickened out at the last second. The thought of intertwining legs with another guy and rubbing our slippery, smooth nylons together and grinding cock to cock, to mutual and repeated orgasms, makes me incredibly hot. I would even do it with a woman.

First of all, am I gay or bi? I am happily married, but my wife totally despises the idea of my fantasy. Should I hire a male escort? I want to wrestle another person while both of us are wearing nylons so badly that it's driving me crazy to the point where it almost hurts. Please help.

Nylon Lover

The answer to your first question—gay or bi?—is a big fat, fucking, taggaty yes, NL, definitely one or the other.

Moving on, you wanna wrestle with another guy while wearing nylons and grinding your cocks together—and you want this so badly you would even settle for doing it with a woman. If that's how you presented

it to the wife, NL, then there's a good reason she despises your fantasy. No woman wants to feel like some sort of vag-havin' bummeo of a consolation prize.

But if you presented your relatively harmless fantasy to your wife as something you wanted to do with her and she flat-out refused and you will absolutely, positively lose your mind if you don't get to do this with someone, then I support hiring a pro. It's

cases like yours, NL, that earn male escorts their angel wings. The pro steps in, safely meets a crazy-making need, and then quietly disappears. (Unless you're a lying evangelical minister, in which case the pro should immediately call a press conference.) Peace and harmony are restored and the "happily married couple remains 'happily' married."

Oh, and speaking of gay escorts who've earned their wings: Gay blogger Joe My God thinks we all need to show some love to Mike Jones, the escort who outed Pastor Ted "Meth Head" Haggard. "The major gay-rights organizations have extended [Jones] nothing but 10-foot poles," writes Joe. "He is unemployed and I imagine that for at least

the short future, he is unemployable. He is facing the potential of huge legal bills. He has received death threats from Haggard's followers... Gentle readers, you and I owe Mike Jones a debt of gratitude." Joe suggests we make good on that debt by tossing Jones a few bucks via PayPal. "Send him the \$10 you would have spent buying him drinks if you ran into him in a bar."

I made a donation—now go make yours. Donations can be made at www.PayPal.com to Jones's e-mail address, massagedandmuscle@aol.com.

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